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Near East & South Asia

Near East & South Asia

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[Erratum: Please make the following changes in the article headlined "Criticism of Pro-Government Editorial on Finance Law" on page 1 in the Morocco section of JPRS-NEA-88-016 of 10 March 1988: AL-HAYAH AL-IQTSAIDIYAH should be rendered LA VIE ECONOMIQUE (Economic Life); LE MATIN AL-SAHARA' should be rendered LE MATIN DU SAHARA. Both newspapers are published entirely in French.]

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EGYPT

Cairo Rejects Letter From Israeli Ambassador

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1 Mar 88 p 9

[Text] Cairo refused to receive an official Israeli letter from the Israeli ambassador addressed to the Egyptian foreign ministry and signed by Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres. The letter originated in Jerusalem. Cairo explained the refusal by the fact that Egypt recognizes Israel as a country within the established boundaries of division 181, and Tel Aviv as its recognized capital.

Interview With President of Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee

*45040067 London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Feb 88 pp 25- 26*

[Interview with Dr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ilah, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly, by 'Abd-al-Fattah Tal'at; Cairo, date not given]

[Text] Dr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ilah is one of the most prominent personalities of the ruling NDP in Egypt. He is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Egyptian People's Assembly, and serves as the official responsible for popular diplomacy in Egypt's foreign relations. AL-DUSTUR met him in Cairo to learn about the attitudes governing the committee's moves on the most important problems and events taking place in the Arab and international arena.

First of all, Dr 'Abd-al-Ilah defines the attitudes that govern his actions as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly. He says that the committee carries on the task of popular diplomacy. Although official relations between states are important, contacts between peoples on all levels and in all factions form the groundwork for the continuance and support of this official connection. "Today, when we put our Arab issues forward in the international arena, it is not enough for us to put them directly on governments' tables; they must be placed concurrently or beforehand on the table of popular organizations. This is what the Foreign Relations Committee of the Egyptian People's Assembly does." During last year, the Egyptian People's Assembly strengthened its relations with the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and the parliamentary body of the Council of Europe. "Our [People's] Assembly obtained what is called an open invitation to attend the discussions and sessions of the Parliamentary Committee of the Council of Europe. Its agenda now reaches us on a regular basis. In the last meeting with the Middle East Committee and the other political groups that represent political parties, we handled the Middle East problem, the Gulf War, and Egyptian-European relations. This necessarily has a positive effect on European decisionmaking emanating from the official executive side.

Parliamentary Delegation in Iraq

[Question] What about the initiative of Egyptian popular diplomacy in the wake of the recent Arab-Egyptian rapprochement?

[Answer] I would like to call it the circle of Arab-Arab relations, not Arab-Egyptian, because we are talking about relations among brothers between whom there exist relations rooted in the depths of history. So I think what happened recently—the return of Arab-Arab relations—is nothing but a formal correction in relations between Arab brothers.

As regards the committee's activity with Arab parliaments, we usually coordinate in international parliamentary gatherings with all Arab brothers. Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, president of the Egyptian People's Assembly, will soon head a delegation from the assembly to visit our brother Arab country, Iraq, from which we received a parliamentary delegation last year. The committee now wishes to continue its interest in the next stage by exchanging visits in Arab popular parliaments in order to reach decisions that serve higher Arab interests.

[Question] In a recently issued statement, the Foreign Relations Committee of the Egyptian People's Assembly called for a reordering of the Arab household, a review of the concepts of Arab solidarity and the joint defense compact, an attempt to arrive at a formula that would restore the effectiveness of the Arab League, and a real commitment to its charters. Can we have a general or specific idea from you of how this household should be ordered?

[Answer] The challenges now confronting the Arab nation require the maximum amount of effective collective mutual assistance on many important issues in the Arab arena, from the Gulf War, to moving toward a just and comprehensive peace, and to the fraternal Palestinian people's obtaining its legitimate rights. I think the Arab summit conference recently held in Amman was a positive step toward the beginning of unified Arab movement and resuming progress on the right track.

From my point of view, this effective collective coordination necessarily requires belief in a number of fixed realities. First, a general feeling should prevail that the future of the Arab nation is one future, that the nation's hopes and desires are in one crucible, and that without a minimum of solidarity the Arab nation will never be able to have the same effect and influence in the international arena as it now has.

I therefore call for avoiding certain ideas that have been proven ineffective when put into practice. The challenges and circumstances of the coming period require a rethinking. Europe has 12 countries and speaks about 7 different languages, yet it has drawn together and come

to agreement, even after fierce wars between its countries. Most projects for mutual Arab cooperation, however, have not reached this level. Some have never seen the light; others are being held up for political reasons. We therefore call for a new concept that will distinguish between Arab economic cooperation, which benefits the [entire] Arab nation, and higher national strategic goals, [setting them] apart from the political quarrels that sometimes occur between governments or between various Arab organizations.

The second point on which we advocate the need for rethinking is the law and ordinances of the Arab League. It is inconceivable that its resolutions should be unanimous. One vote may oppose, and a decision on which the majority has agreed is obstructed. Also, we advocate coordination of foreign policy stands on international problems. The Arab nation is full of abilities and cadres that now influence the international arena. We must exploit these abilities by working through the lobby mentality or an Arab political pressure group on the international stage.

[Question] The Foreign Relations Committee of the Egyptian People's Assembly has also expressed the opinion that there is a pressing need for the existence of an Arab force capable of protecting Arab national security and repelling any aggression. What ways do you see for realizing this?

[Answer] First of all, we have to be clear that we are always striving for peace. The single Arab force whose existence we think necessary is not intended for aggression; it is a force to protect peace. With its resources and vital strategic position, this nation is the target of expansionist ambitions and goals. Consequently, the existence of an Arab force is in itself an element for deterrence and for the protection of this nation.

[Question] How do you see the areas of coordination for forming this force?

[Answer] There is varying technological expertise among the Arab states, and there are states that possess capital. If expertise, ideas, and economic power are joined together, we shall be able to form an advanced Arab force and to progress in the weapons industry and in other fields that support the strength of the Arab nation. This, in turn, would affect the independence of Arab decisionmaking.

The Uprising and Palestinian Identity

[Question] The Palestinian revolution in the occupied territory is people and stones—what else?

[Answer] The situation occurring in the occupied territory has brought out fundamental realities they wanted to suppress. First is the vitality of the Palestinian people. Second is that 20 years of occupation and attempted

obliteration of the Palestinian identity have not succeeded. The policy of suppression, deportation, and placing the occupied lands under military rule has failed. The uprising has proved the truth of the Egyptian view, which always warned against freezing the situation as regards the Palestinian issue and always pushed for more action to convene the international peace conference and to create a complete and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian issue. The uprising has also proved to international public opinion as a whole that this is the priority problem in the Middle East, and that the stability of the region is dependent on its solution.

[Question] The committee, under your chairmanship, has announced its condemnation of repressive Israeli measures in the occupied territory. How has the political leadership acted? Do you think the condemnation was adequate?

[Answer] We made this condemnation as the Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly. We implored all the parliaments in the entire world to condemn with us and take a clear stand on this violation of human rights in the occupied territory. I think the official position of Egypt and Egypt's leader, President Husni Mubarak, is extremely clear on this matter.

I think we have to call on Arab public opinion to take action through the media to clarify before internal public opinion the full picture of human rights violations being suffered by the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

The Sudan and Egypt

[Question] In a published newspaper interview, you said, "If the circumstances render it necessary, Egypt will always respond to the Sudan's call for protection against any foreign intervention or danger threatening the Sudan's security and stability. But Egypt has not and never will be a party in one group against another group in the fraternal country of the Sudan, because we deal with the Sudan's people as a whole." The question is how you see the Egyptian role in protecting the security and stability of the Sudan, in light of the continuing conflict in the Sudanese South, particularly since the forces of the South are moving with aid and support from Ethiopia.

[Answer] First of all, we feel that the Sudan is the extension of Egyptian security and that the south and north of the Nile Valley are one country—in the sense of one people—apart from the geographical and political divisions. Consequently, Egyptian and Sudanese national security are one. On this basis, Egypt is interested in the stability, progress, and advancement of the fraternal Sudanese people. Egypt absolutely does not interfere in the internal affairs of the Sudan. We believe in the freedom of the Sudanese people to choose what it wants, and we stand with as much as we can.

Naturally, Egypt is worried about developments now occurring in this conflict and is eager for the Sudan to direct its efforts toward development, in order to solve the economic problem.

I think the efforts being made by Egypt and by President Mubarak personally are clear—efforts to improve relations between the Sudan and Ethiopia and to preserve the unity and security of the Sudan, as national duty dictates. However, I address an appeal to the Arab countries as a whole to intervene to solve the internal problems in the Sudan within an Arab-African framework, so that they do not provide an opportunity for the interference of outside powers that might misuse or exploit situations like this to stir up trouble.

[Question] You are a professor of economics at Alexandria University. How do you view the economic crisis in the Sudan? In light of the Egyptian-Sudanese brotherhood treaty, how do you see the solution?

[Answer] The Sudanese economic crisis represents a large part of a crisis from which many Third World countries are suffering—hence Egypt's eagerness to participate in attending the UNCTAD conference, which President Mubarak attended, where indebtedness was discussed. We as parliamentarians asked that it be put on the agenda of the international parliamentary conference, because the burdens, payments, and servicing of debts have come to represent a burden hindering the development process in the Sudan, besides the political circumstances and lack of stability. Nevertheless, we think the Sudan, despite these circumstances, can make progress in the stage of development, provided that it is helped for a time by international organizations or the Arab or African funds. The Sudan lacks a highway network linking the Sudanese regions to each other. We often hear that there is an abundance of food in some regions, but that it finds no market because there are no transportation networks linking that region with others. In my view, this period is important. It is what is called in economics "the take-off stage." But it requires large investments. If the fraternal country of the Sudan is left alone in this stage, it will have great difficulty.

The Gulf War

[Question] The Gulf War continues, and foreign intervention continues. What salvation do you see?

[Answer] We believe that this war is a destruction of Islamic and Arab resources. This war has opened and continues to open the door to foreign interference in the region. The struggle has now come to represent a fateful danger that could lead to international confrontations with very bad consequences. An indication of this is Iran's aggression against Kuwait, which is not a direct party in the war.

I think Iran now wants to escalate the war against the remaining countries of the Gulf, which is an exceedingly dangerous matter.

What I think is now demanded from the international community is to move resolutely to implement Security Council Resolution 598, stop the military operations, and arrive at a solution in the context of international law. The region and the Islamic community have suffered enough material, human, and financial losses in this war.

We hope Iran will listen to the voice of reason and that its leaders will respond and follow Iraq's example in accepting all the international resolutions calling for stopping the fighting.

Egypt's position on this war is clear. It is a position dictated by Egypt's Arab nationalist attitude. Egypt is on the side of Iraq, to support its people in resisting the Iranian enemy.

12937

NDP Secretary General Discusses Domestic, Agricultural Affairs

45040064 London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Jan 88 pp 24-25

[Interview with National Democratic Party Secretary General Yusif Wali in Cairo, by Fatimah Dayyab]

[Text] There are many issues and challenges which threaten the Arab nation and its national security. As the dimensions of the dangers threatening Arab national security have grown, so has the discussion grown regarding Egypt's role in these affairs, and regarding ways to confront these threats. This interview, conducted by AL-DUSTUR in Cairo with Dr. Yusif Wali, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary-General of the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP], is an attempt to understand the implications of this role, especially at the present time.

Dr. Yusif Wali is the number two man in the ruling NDP in Egypt after President Mubarak. He is also the strongman in the corridors of Egyptian politics, and to a great extent he influences the formulation of every new decision in Egypt's political and economic arena in his capacity as deputy prime minister. Dr. Yusif Wali is an agricultural expert, and he is the minister responsible for Egypt's most important economic resource, namely agriculture. The interview began with questions concerning Arab affairs and situations, and led naturally to internal and economic conditions in Egypt. The first question concerned Dr. Wali's concept of Egypt's role and position regarding the Gulf war within the framework of attempts to end that war. He responded:

[Answer] Egypt's fundamental position regarding the bloodshed in the Gulf is constantly being affirmed by President Mubarak. We are in favor of all international, regional, and Islamic efforts to stop this war. Egypt's position supports Iraq. Its condemnations of Iranian aggression against Kuwait are based on an Islamic, Arab, and moral point of view. Iraq's response to initiatives seeking a peaceful solution, and its efforts in this regard are clear to every country and institution in the world. The aggression against Kuwait reveals the aggressive party in this war, which is a loss for all. We in Egypt oppose the expansion of the area of conflict in the Gulf. Such an expansion complicates the problem and delays a speedy solution. Egypt's position in this regard is a consequence of its awareness of the national interest which it has not, and will not, ever abandon with regard to supporting brothers in confronting aggression against them.

[Question] What is your appraisal of Arab positions in support of Iran in the Gulf War, and of countries which have not taken any positions, be they supportive or otherwise? In your opinion, how can the war be ended?

[Answer] Regarding an appraisal of the Arab positions supportive of Iran, or those nations which took negative positions, let me state that a united Arab nation—with one position—would help to extinguish the fire burning in the Gulf and the internecine fighting in Lebanon, and would help to achieve a just peace in our region which guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to determine its destiny. Therefore, an objective appraisal of the situation has nothing to do with digging up the past or crying over spilt milk, but it is our means to a better future. This is the right of our future generations. It would be an unpardonable mistake if we left these generations to disintegrate and suffer, and I do not believe that it would be possible to correct such an error in a short time. I hope that we quickly succeed in extricating ourselves from this whirlpool.

The Israeli Rejection

[Question] The international peace conference is on Egypt's agenda of political concerns. In this regard, there are some who believe that the conference will not be held because of Israeli reasons, and that if it were held, it would not solve the basic issue of the "Palestinian crisis." What is your opinion on the conference?

[Answer] Despite the fact that I do not wish to criticize those who doubt the possibility of holding an international conference, especially in view of the clear obstinacy displayed by "Israel," I believe in the effectiveness of a unified "Arab role," be it to convene and actually bring about a conference, or to propose solutions which would be decided by such a conference, in consideration of the fact that an international conference is currently an appropriate formula by which to move toward a just

solution of the Palestinian problem within the framework of international society. We certainly have the ability to place (Israeli reasons) in their proper perspective through relentless efforts and selfless pursuit of the Pan-Arab interest.

Here I must praise the Egyptian-Jordanian initiative in this regard which is led by the noble Arab consciousness of His Excellency, King Husayn, and by President Mubarak. The success of King Husayn in convening the Arab summit as a motivating force for joint Arab action will inevitably be followed by other steps taken by Arab leaders.

[Question] What about your opinion of the method by which Palestinian representation will occur, and your opinion on the need for Syria to attend the conference?

[Answer] From the outset, the international conference formula must guarantee the representation of the Palestinians and the PLO, considered by everyone to be their sole legitimate spokesman. The crux of a Palestinian presence—with all of its implications—at the conference is what concerns us first and foremost. Therefore, we are in favor of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation—with all of its challenges and difficulties—in all phases of the solution. According to all standards, a Syrian presence at the conference is also necessary, for the sake of the interests of the Arab nation more so than for those of Syria. Therefore it is essential that Arab delegations go to the conference and speak as one. If there are contradictory positions, God forbid, that would mean the continuation of what we are experiencing, and no one is satisfied with this situation, regardless of his country.

[Question] Egypt has played an important role in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. Is there anything new in this regard?

[Answer] The Egyptian effort in this regard is continuing and is at the core of Egypt's external political concerns. We defer to our brothers in Sudan and Ethiopia regarding the announcement of what was achieved by this effort. Our goal is the rapprochement of viewpoints and the resolution of undecided questions. We will work together to develop our countries.

Internal Issues

The discussion shifted to internal issues and Yusif Wali's opinion of the appearance of the future era following the election of President Husni Mubarak to a second term as president by the Egyptian people. The Deputy Egyptian Prime Minister stated: [Answer] The coming era is inseparable from the huge success achieved in the past six years, especially in terms of the political structure of the national economy and the root causes of our problems. The program advocated by President Mubarak, which began in the period of his first presidency at the economic conference, united all political currents and determined in its wake, the elements of the root causes of

our problems. In the next phase, the goal of increasing production is an outstanding priority. In a few weeks, a national conference for this purpose will be held in which all political parties will participate.

The foundation for achieving a revival in production was provided in the first five-year plan in the form of its achievements in infrastructure programs, and the policies it laid down for production activity in the commodities, industrial, construction, and agricultural sectors. We have a basic approach for confronting excessive consumption patterns and the problem of the poor. This requires combining efforts and mobilizing energies within a unified framework of national sentiment which rises above party affiliation.

The Party Experiment

[Question] Regarding the party experiment and the extent of its success in expressing social and political forces in Egypt, will there be new parties in the future?

[Answer] A precise, scientific evaluation of the implications of our party experiment requires a longer time than was the case in the past. This highlights continuity and growth as one of the objective indicators of its success. Our basic goal as parties is to orient the experiment toward achieving our national interests and the interests of the people, in order to prevent them from being swept toward futile arguments and practices. Although I believe that the existing parties guarantee the opportunity to express political currents in our country, the right to establish new parties is a matter guaranteed by the law, and this was affirmed by the experiments in national action in the previous phase.

The Desirable Opposition

[Question] In the light of that, what is your opinion of the role played by Egyptian opposition parties in the enrichment of political life in Egypt?

[Answer] It is inconceivable for democratic life to exist without an opposition. The opposition is the other side of the political coin; the opposition bears responsibility with the majority, and it also joins the majority in harvesting the fruits of success.

[Question] What about the continued application of the Emergency Law, especially after the stabilization of support for the NDP and the sweeping popularity of President Mubarak?

[Answer] The continued implementation of the Emergency Law requires an objective examination of the reality in which we live, and the dangers which surround us. This is what compelled the members of parliament to agree to renew it, because the preservation of stability

and the security of our national soil is our prime concern. If the law is stricken, all of our development efforts and progress would be thrown to the wind. The bloody lesson of Lebanon continues to be rooted in our hearts and minds.

[Question] There is news of the dissolution of parliament, and new elections which will take place based on the principle of direct elections. How reliable is this news? What is your comment on it?

[Answer] There is no news of the dissolution of parliament. Therefore, my commenting would be to no avail.

[Question] You visited the chairman of the opposition Labor Party. Was the visit the beginning of a new tradition of dialogue between the NDP and the opposition, or is it a response to the position of the Labor Party, where President Mubarak is supported?

[Answer] My visit to the chairman of the Labor Party, Ibrahim Shukri, was not my first, and will not be the last. I began my work as an assistant secretary of the NDP with visits to the homes of all opposition leaders. All of them are brothers and are naturally partners in work and fate. Also, in my position as Minister of Agriculture, I sent the "Agricultural Policy" report to all opposition party chairmen on the same day as when I submitted it to President Mubarak.

Dialogue with the opposition is a firm principle for us in the NDP, and we will not give it up because it enriches our democratic life.

[Question] With regard to the second five-year plan, what is the extent of its effectiveness in solving the economic crisis?

[Answer] The basic elements of the current plan have necessarily focused on effectively facing our problems, foremost of which is the economic problem. It includes policies which are responsible for achieving this goal. In addition, the element of flexibility in the plan's programs provides for an examination of the changes which might occur during the application of the plan. The mood currently prevailing in Egypt guarantees the achievement of that for which our hopes are striving. The decisive criterion here is the mobilization of our efforts and the consideration of these efforts as a national program to achieve our goals and bring them to fruition.

The Food Gap

[Question] In your position as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, to what extent is it possible for Egypt to cease the importation of food, and is there a plan for self-sufficiency regarding wheat?

[Answer] We have succeeded through the previous plan in closing the food gap and the food import gap with regard to many products—beans, bananas, eggs—and

the amount of imported sorghum, meat, fish, and poultry has declined. The amount of imported wheat has stabilized despite the increase in population of six million people. This means that the population increased without an increase in the amount of any imported commodity. On the contrary, the importation of several commodities has ceased, and has declined with regard to the rest of the other commodities which represent a high proportion of imports.

Our efforts to increase production are continuous with regard to increasing the productivity of feddans and increasing arable land—which was determined by the president, in his speech before the parliament, to be 1,250,000 new feddans annually. On the other hand, there must be action to control the consumption of numerous agricultural commodities. For example, our production of sugar in 1972 totalled 550,000 tons, and we were self-sufficient. Last year our domestic production totalled 927,000 tons. Despite this, we are currently importing 600,000 tons! Average individual consumption has increased from 17.2 kg annually in 1975 to more than 30 kg at present. Regarding wheat, it was decided that we will continue to depend on wheat imports for a long time. The important thing is that we will continue our efforts to increase production and control consumption, which totalled more than 200 kg per individual annually compared to 70 kg through the mid-seventies. This requires the continual narrowing of the import gap.

[Question] What about the new agricultural experiment, "hothouse agriculture," and the extent of its success and continuity?

[Answer] The technology of hothouse agriculture proved advantageous in numerous places in the world. This successful experiment was initially transferred to Jordan and Egypt through the private sector. It was subsequently utilized by the Ministry of Agriculture in its limited production programs. With regard to the controversy surrounding this new method of intensive agriculture, I felt that it was my duty to call for the convocation of a scientific conference which includes parties from home and abroad, with the Agricultural Nutrition Organization assisting with the invitation and preparation process. I strove during the conference to limit the chairmanship of conference sessions to university professors and former ministers rather than officials of the Ministry of Agriculture. This led to specific recommendations which currently govern our actions and plans, in addition to the cabinet's decision to expand hothouse agriculture on new lands. This is what we are currently pursuing. In general, the agricultural situation in Egypt, and the fact that 15 percent of the agricultural production elements are in the hands of individuals in the private sector, permit only the growth of successful agricultural programs and methods.

[Question] President Mubarak called for a conference to be held under the slogan "production." What are the basic points on the its working agenda, and who will

participate in it; will the decisions resulting from it be accompanied by radical changes in the current five-year plan?

[Answer] In accordance with the working agenda formulated by the conference preparation committee, the conference will assume a national dimension. Therefore, those participating in it represent all associations, unions, parties, and scientific institutions. There is no contradiction between any likely recommendation resulting from the conference and the goals of the plan. The conference supports the goal of increasing production, which inevitably enriches and propels work in the programs.

13286

JORDAN

Cultural Cooperation Agreement With Czechoslovakia Finalized

44040120bAmman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
17 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] To strengthen relations between Jordan and Czechoslovakia in the fields of culture, arts, education, science, communications and sports, an executive plan was signed yesterday for cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries. The plan, which was drawn up in implementation of the 3-year cultural accord the two countries signed in 1978, encouraged the exchange of advisors by both sides in culture, international art, folklore and art troops and the puppet theatre as well as in the theatre and cultural communication material, cooperation between central libraries, the holding of design art and photo exhibitions, in addition to exchanging expertise in antiquity, museum and environmental protection as well as in education and higher learning.

The plan encourages the exchange of delegations and educational data. The Czechoslovakian side will offer Jordan three scholarships, including one for higher studies, and courses on eastern studies. The Jordanian side will offer two training courses in the Arabic language.

The plan calls on both sides to encourage and further cooperation between universities in the two countries and to set up a faculty exchange program between universities and institutes of higher learning.

The plan pointed out the importance of increased cooperation between the Jordanian News Agency and the Czechoslovakian News Agency in accordance with an agreement the two countries signed on 15 November 1984. This is in addition to encouraging further cooperation in the field of television, enhanced relations in physical training and athletics and a larger number of advisors in the fields of social development.

The agreement was signed by engineer Kamal Qaqish, director of the Social Projects Department and chairman of the Jordanian Permanent Bilateral Agreements Committee of the Ministry of Planning, for the Jordanian government, and Dr Emile Hyersheky, cultural attache of the Czechoslovak embassy in Jordan.

The signing was attended by senior officials of concerned ministries and Czechoslovak embassy members in Amman.

12502

Trade Agreement Signed With Australia
44040120aJordan AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
15 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] The Jordanian and Australian governments yesterday signed an agreement to vitalize trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Hamdi al-Tabba', minister of industry and trade, signed the agreement for the Jordanian government and Mr Bill Hayden, minister of foreign affairs and trade, signed it for the Australian government.

The agreement provides for facilitating the exchange of imports, exports and goods between the two countries and encourages the exchange of trade delegations and trade fairs and other activities that promote trade exchanges, particularly in the field of exporting phosphate, fertilizers, potash and other products, and the transfer of technology and joint ventures in both countries.

It also provides for the exemption of goods displayed at fairs held in either country from fees, provided that they are not reexported without prior authorization from the competent authorities.

Promoting Industrial Cooperation

The 3-year old agreement also provides for the advancement and facilitation of industrial and technical cooperation between the two countries, including joint investment ventures in accordance with rules and regulations observed in each of the two countries and the formation of a joint committee to meet periodically in the two countries to offer proposals for expanding trade and to resolve difficulties that may arise from the implementation of this agreement.

The minister of industry, trade and supply stated to journalists that this agreement set the general framework for trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and, accordingly, Jordan will export phosphate to the Australian market following a complete study by the Jordanian Phosphate Company to determine how much of this substance can be exported to Australia where phosphate sources have been depleted for now.

Joint Ventures

About joint ventures between the two countries as stipulated by the agreement, he said that Jordan, in view of its political stability, infrastructure and central geographic position, can make use of Australian expertise in agriculture and industry whereby it can export industries to Arab countries as Jordanian products and benefit from its relations with the Arab common market and bilateral relations with other countries. Moreover, such ventures will provide job opportunities for Jordanians and will augment Jordan's exports, thus putting an end to the one-sided trade exchange.

He added that the agreement touched on the possibility of Jordan importing certain basic foodstuffs such as wheat and other goods from Australia.

The signing of the agreement was attended by the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Australian ambassador to Amman, the delegation accompanying the visiting minister and a number of ministry officials.

12502

Darwishah Explains Resignation From Labor Party

44040119Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 26 Jan 88 p 8

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darwishah by Khalid Qasim Abu-Makar in "Conversation of the Hour" column : "My Resignation From Labor Party a Slap to Rabin's Face and His Policy"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Israeli Knesset member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darwishah called on Labor Party doves to withdraw from the party in the wake of the hawks' control over it, deeming those who stay in the party as participants in actions taken against the Palestinians.

He pointed out that the Labor Party doves cowered before the hawks and Rabin's intransigent line.

Darwishah said that the main reason for his resignation from the Israeli Labor Party was his rejection of the policy of repression the Palestinian people are facing in the occupied Arab territory.

He called upon the Israeli people to work for a change in their leadership's position or a change in this leadership to reach a peaceful solution that guarantees the rights of the two peoples to live side by side, each in their own state.

[Question] What is the immediate reason for your resignation from the Labor Party?

[Answer] The central, essential and main reason is my rejection of the policy of repression our people are facing in the occupied territory which has resulted in scores of deaths, injuries and arrests and which I consider not only hostile to our Palestinian people but to the peace process as well. My resignation came after profound consideration and after matters came to a head.

[Question] What is the background to this step?

[Answer] This step was taken as a result of feelings of frustration on my part and among the Arab people in the Labor Party because it reverted back to the three no's: no negotiations with the PLO, no to a Palestinian state and no to the return to the 1967 borders.

With my resignation I wanted to shake up the Labor Party because the party doves cowered before the hawks. When I was a party member, I tried to dissuade Rabin from following his intransigent line toward our Palestinian people by applying pressure from within, but I failed. My only alternative was to submit my resignation which was a blow to Rabin and his policy of rejection which had begun to dominate the Labor Party due to its presence in the 'national paralysis' government while following the Likud principles.

[Question] But what about your call to the Labor Party's Arab members to withdraw from its membership?

[Answer] I said that no Arab had a place in the Labor Party and urged them to withdraw because nowadays the party does not represent peace. It talks about peace but is not ready to make sacrifices because peace requires sacrifice and the party is not at all ready to embark seriously upon a peace process that would lead to sacrifice.

I called on the Labor Party doves to withdraw from the party because, in the wake of the hawks' domination over it, I see no place for the doves. Staying in the party means participating and indeed contributing to actions taken against the Palestinians. People who stay in the party bear a historical responsibility. I am afraid that the current Israeli leadership of both parties is leading the region to disaster.

[Question] Do you see any possibility of Israeli public opinion influencing the Israeli government and its positions?

[Answer] My message to the Israeli people in my resignation is that they have to work toward effecting a change in their leadership's position or to change this leadership in order to reach a peaceful solution that guarantees the rights of both peoples whereby a Palestinian state can be established next to Israel and the two people can live side by side. For the Arab world today,

and the PLO in particular, says yes to an international conference and yes to a solution that guarantees the rights of both peoples, but this is countered by Israeli rejection.

[Question] What is the Labor Party's position on the resignation?

[Answer] The Labor Party is enraged by the resignation on which it was not consulted. As a result of this resignation, the party will lose quite a number of Arab and Jewish votes.

[Question] What are your future plans and have you given any thought to creating an Arab party and, if so, what are the chances for its success?

[Answer] I will continue to work with vigor and faith in the principles I believe in. My journey with the Arab brothers is a long one. The potential for creating a new party is there, but no specific idea has crystallized as yet. I am holding consultation and exchanging views with all the brothers because this issue is not mine alone, but rather belongs to the people at large.

I am ready to sacrifice even my Knesset seat for a cause and a principle. There are those who are sacrificing their blood and everything they own for a principle and my sacrificing the Knesset seat is not too much for a cause I believe in.

12502

Center Promotes Technical, Economic Cooperation with YAR

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Feb 88 p 5

[Article by Salim al-Mu'ani]

[Text] Dr 'Arafat al-Tumaymi, vice-president of the Royal Science Academy for Industry Affairs, announced the creation of a Jordanian-Yemeni technological center for limited investments following the recent signing of its charter and statutes in Amman and San'a.

Dr al-Tumaymi said: "Based on the Royal Science Academy's role of undertaking research and applied scientific and technological work linked to the development process, the industrial one in particular, and in order to give concrete form to the directives and desires of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, chairman of the board of trustees, to participate and share in the development process at the Arab regional order level in order to transfer and exchange expertise with a view to achieving development objectives in the Arab nation, this national development step between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Yemeni Arab Republic has been taken in the service of development plans in the two fraternal countries."

Center's Objectives

About the center's objectives, Dr al-Tumaymi said: "We hope that the center will realize several objectives, including serving as a communication channel for scientific, technological and technical cooperation between the YAR and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in addition to offering specialized technical, financial and administrative advice to the public and private sectors; preparing studies for economic and development projects of various kinds; conducting research and applied scientific and technological development work related to the development process, the industrial one in particular; and offering distinct technical services in the various fields within its capacity."

He added: "Other objectives are to propose projects; encourage private sector investors of both countries to participate in these projects. The center will also contribute to these projects; train technical cadres; prepare studies and investments for establishing specialized laboratories; prepare data system studies and programs; and serve as a technical consultant on the transfer of technology within the center's regulations and objectives."

Center's Capital

He explained that the center's capital is made up of one million Yemeni riyals, divided into 1,000 indivisible nominal shares, 500 of which will go to the Yemeni Investment Company and 500 to the Royal Science Academy.

He said: "It has been decided to base the center in San'a, the capital of the YAR, with authorization to establish, by a general assembly order, branches, offices, and agencies inside or outside the two countries. The center shall be run by a board of directors composed of 4 members for the time being; this number may be raised in the future with the approval of both countries."

He added: "The center's charter and statutes stipulate that the responsibility of subscribers is limited by the number of capital shares owned and that no shares in the center may be sold, transferred or donated without the approval of the board of directors in accordance with terms it deems appropriate, and no issues can be floated or offered for public subscription."

He said: "Center projects and branches shall be subject to the provisions of valid local laws regarding anything not stipulated in its charter and statutes. Likewise, differences arising among the founders over the application of the provisions of the charter or statutes that cannot be resolved amicably shall be subject to arbitration by a 3-member arbitration committee. Each of the founders shall select one committee member and the third shall be appointed by mutual consent, provided that he is a third-country Arab national. The committee's decisions shall be final and binding."

Statutes

Dr al-Tumaymi indicated that the center's statutes and charter provide for the future amendment of their articles at the recommendation of the board of directors, the consent of the general assembly and the concurrence of competent sides at the center's headquarters. They also authorize the special general assembly to increase its capital as needed in accordance with a proposal by the board of directors after the capital is fully satisfied in accordance with regulations it sets."

He said: "Subscription to and ownership of shares is considered as definite acceptance of the center's rules and resolutions adopted by the general assembly and the center's board of directors. Shareholders shall have the rights and obligations stipulated in the center's charter and statutes."

He added: "With regard to administrative matters, it has been decided that the center be run by a board of directors composed of 4 members appointed to a 2-year renewable term and that the board may be expanded in the future. Board members shall be named by the founders, provided that they are employees of the nominating establishment. Should a member's services at the establishment be terminated, the establishment shall have the right to appoint a replacement before the end of his term."

He explained that the board's chairmanship shall rotate between the presidents of the Royal Science Academy and the chairman of the Yemeni Investment Company in 2-year terms and the vice-chairman shall be a national of the other founding country. The board shall hold emergency meetings whenever necessary at the invitation of its chairman or the request of two of its members.

12502

Writer Evaluates Effect of Gaza Uprising on World Opinion

44040120cAmman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
17 Feb 88 p 7

[Article by 'Arafat Hijazi: "A Message of Apology to World Public Opinion"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the glorious uprising in occupied Palestine has upset all Arab, Israeli and international balances and has turned the illusive negotiating tables upside down, maintaining its status as the important event which is now determining the fate of "things" in the Middle East!

One key issue affected by this uprising is the media question which has evoked many complaints on our part as has the world media bias and world public opinion which is against our interests and our rights and ultimately serve the rights of the enemy.

But the glorious uprising has succeeded in bringing to the area more communications media and reporters than all the Arab-Israeli wars put together were able to attract, from the 1948 disaster to the tripartite aggression, the 1967 occupation, the 1973 war, all the way through the aggression against Lebanon and the notorious siege of Beirut.

Official estimates of press, radio and TV personnel who have come to occupied Palestine to cover the glorious uprising amount to about 1,000 media people who came from all 6 continents to transmit their news reports, photos and films, all bespeaking the brutality and savagery of the Zionist occupation and the heroism of children whose only weapon is rocks. Through these two images, the truth about the Palestinian question, heretofore unknown to world public opinion, began coming to light and Zionist fragmentation and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people became manifest.

Hence, the uprising was no longer an Arab event or an Israeli worry. Indeed, it became the lead story of the world media and a march cutting through the streets of European capitals.

One friend in Great Britain told me that TV stations there broadcast 50 newscasts a day and that one-third of every one of these newscasts is dedicated to the uprising which is being followed by the British public that watches with admiration the arms of youngsters throwing rocks at soldiers and their tanks, while viewing with disgust Israeli attacks on women and children, waged with a kind of brutality unparalleled in history.

Another friend phoned me from California to say that one TV station dedicated its half-hour newscast to one news item: the uprising. This has never happened with any other event, an Arab event in particular.

I began wondering about the meaning of this sudden coup in the world mass media. Could it be that the world media, after a long spell of ignoring Arab rights, has been struck with sudden pangs of conscience and is now atoning for past sins?

About 10 years ago, I published a book entitled "Defeat of Arab Mass Media." I have also written scores of articles discussing, as did others, Zionist influence and domination over world mass media. Moreover, the matter of media bias toward Zionist aggression has been the central issue of seminars and meetings, all asserting that world public opinion has been biased toward Israel, either because of Israeli and Zionist success in deluding and deceiving it or because of the Zionist lobby that controls the world media.

But what has happened with the "uprising" that attracted all world mass media as well as world sympathy after upsetting all past balances and turning Israel into the laughingstock of world media which began revealing Israel's vicious and bloodthirsty nature bent on coercion, injustice and usurpation?

Suddenly, I found myself facing a true fact when it became clear to me that Israel is now facing an embarrassing situation on the world battlefield and in international circles. The uprising succeeded in backing the Israeli rule into a corner where it stands alone, abandoned even by the Israeli intelligentsia that proclaimed its solidarity with the Palestinian people through communiques and demonstrations, demanding that the fascist government in Israel resign and grant the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

In the face of this fact, I felt that Israel is sensing the damage for the first time. This means that the rock children represented the first Arab action to confront Israel and harm it in order to restore the rights of the Palestinian people and to end the state of perdition and surrender experienced by this region which was under the impression that it had no other choice but the political option. When Israel began feeling economic, military and political loss because of the uprising, the world was ready to listen to the point of view, to accept it and work for its realization.

Hence, we find ourselves for the first time standing before world opinion to apologize to it for our charges that it was always biased in favor of Israel. For the uprising proved to be the first serious action capable of shaking the Israeli entity down to the core and world opinion can only stand on the side of serious actions, hence the 1,000 media personnel now living in the occupied territories capturing the heroic actions of children whose rocks taught Israel a lesson it will never forget: that the will of peoples could never surrender no matter how big the conspiracy and how vicious the enemy.

12502

MOROCCO

Mohamed Basri Discusses Reasons for Delay in Returning to Morocco

45040069 London *AL-MAJALLAH* in Arabic
3-9 Feb 88 pp 22-23

[Interview with Political Leader Mohamed Basri in Algiers; Date not Given]

[Text] In accordance with the wish of King Hassan II of Morocco, lengthy talks were held last year between Moroccan Government representatives (including Minister of Interior Idris Basri) and Faqih Mohamed Basri, the symbol of the opposition abroad, upon Basri's return to his country and his participation in its political life, as he had once participated in the independence procession which was led by King Mohamed V and by his then Crown Prince Hassan II.

All reports stressed that Basri's return was just a matter of time and that he would be given a sensitive position in the Moroccan government. But then matters faltered suddenly and Basri's return was delayed. No justification was announced, either by Basri himself or by the Moroccan government.

In Algiers, AL-MAJALLAH interviewed Basri, who explained the reasons for the delay in his return to Morocco and stressed that the contacts between him and the Moroccan Government have not been severed. Following is the interview:

[Question] Last year, you received an invitation to return to Morocco and met with a prominent Moroccan official. But while we thought you were in Rabat, we were surprised months later to find that you were still abroad. Is there an explanation for this situation?

[Answer] Returning to Rabat is something I have desired in the past and still desire now. The return I seek is what King Hassan II has characterized as a return to establish continuity between the present and future generations. Within this context, we had a lengthy discussion in which we reviewed the experience shared by King Mohamed V and Hassan II, the then crown prince and current king of Morocco, and which culminated in our country's independence and the establishment of the desired integration between state and society. Major challenges currently face Morocco, and there are realities different from the realities of the past era, when our popular imagination made us elevate Mohamed V to the moon. Man has now reached the moon, and we live in an age of technological development and realism. Last year, I had a lengthy discussion with King Hassan II's envoy on these issues, and I expressed my readiness to perform the role entrusted to me in accordance with the Moroccan king's wishes. I stressed that the challenges require us to view Morocco from the perspective of the next century, when Europe's population will reach 400 million people—a perspective which requires us to preserve our country's independence and unity according to the given facts of the new era, while adhering to our Arab, Islamic, and international heritage, beliefs, and relations.

[Question] Did you disagree on these fundamental issues with the people with whom you had your discussion, or was it disagreement on procedural matters that obstructed your return last year?

[Answer] I can say that there was no disagreement in the general understanding of things. However, I had to be true to myself and my long history, and I could not step over my comrades and brothers who participated with me in this long process. I will say frankly that I did not agree to be the first to return to Morocco or to take advantage of the amnesty. I expressed my full readiness to perform the role required of me. But I also stressed that it was essential that I should be the last to return. I have constantly stressed at the same time that I have been and continue to be prepared to fulfill the Moroccan

monarch's wish and to be the liaison between the past and present generations. The issues I have noted require careful arrangements, not to mention advance family arrangements, considering that I have daughters who got married to Palestinians during my stay abroad. My situation requires forethought on my Arab relations and my personal relations.

Continued Dialogue

[Question] Is there still ongoing communication? And are you still engaged in dialogue with the people King Hassan II has assigned to this task?

[Answer] The communication certainly continues and I am eager to see that it is not severed. I am fully convinced that it is impossible to expect quick results from a dialogue which began only a year ago after an estrangement of nearly a quarter century. This dialogue is a significant step. But because of the accumulated problems of a lengthy past, more profound and frank discussions and greater interaction are required in order that we may guarantee steadfastness and continuity in the future. The dialogue must continue. We can overcome in the future what we were not able to overcome in the past. I, on my part, am a believer in dialogue, and I will continue to seek to bolster the dialogue in order to achieve the objective to which we aspire. I must note here that I recently met with the individual who paved the way for last year's dialogue between me and Minister of Interior Idris Basri. A direct meeting is now supposed to take place between me and the minister of interior himself to find out the true nature of the obstacles that obstructed my return last year. Personally, I am prepared for such a dialogue.

I fully trust the people the king has assigned to talk to me. But out of my wish to convey my full opinion and ideas to the king, I express the wish for a direct meeting with him, keeping in mind that I am fully convinced that our human relations and my past acquaintance with the king will remove many of the obstacles that have arisen over the past years. As I have already said, I am fully convinced, rather certain, that Minister Idris Basri fully conveys the king's wishes and viewpoints to me. Idris once read me a paper whose contents had been dictated to him by King Hassan II. But out of his concern for honesty, Idris told me that the king had talked to him in Arabic, that he wrote what the king had dictated in French, and that he was conveying whatever he was conveying translated from Arabic to French and from French to Arabic.

Frankness With Parties

[Question] In view of the importance of your return to Morocco's political life, have you consulted the other parties about it?

[Answer] I have been frank from the outset, and I told the minister of interior when I met with him that this issue will not be kept secret from the political parties or from the Moroccan, Arab, or international public opinion. While talking with Minister Basri and the Moroccan envoy who had paved the way for those meetings, I maintained constant contact with the Moroccan opposition parties and familiarized them gradually with everything that happened at those meetings. In all phases [of the negotiations], I have been explicit with the government and the parties. I told the minister of interior that I would also raise this issue with the Algerians because the issue touches on the Arab Maghreb experience and the Algerian-Moroccan relations. We want these relations to take the right course and to be based on common Arab interests and objectives. I have been careful not to deceive anybody, and I have conveyed what I heard from the minister of interior to the Moroccan political parties, to Algeria, to friends, and to the Moroccan and Arab public opinion.

[Question] There has been a prevalent feeling that your return to Morocco may constitute a bridge for dialogue between Morocco and Algeria. I also understand that your return may be tantamount to a sign of an imminent settlement of the Sahara crisis which impedes Algerian-Moroccan relations and the Arab Maghreb's unity. Have you played a role in this area?

[Answer] During the dialogue with the minister of interior, I was asked what my response would be in case King Hassan II asked me to mediate between Algeria and Morocco. I answered that this issue does not even need mediation, because I am a part of Algeria and Morocco's modern history. I am fully convinced that what exists between one government and another does not influence the two peoples' relations. I have been careful to stress that transient political issues must not influence the firm and established relations between the Algerian and Moroccan peoples. Among other things, I have said that the status of the Sahara must be tackled on the basis of sound principles that achieve unity for Arab Maghreb and insure that this area will be a civilizational zone for the African experience and that the Sahara will be a bridge between the Arab Maghreb countries and the African countries. I have stressed that I am against fragmentation and that we must unite to face the challenges coming from the other shore of the Mediterranean, especially in the wake of the creation of the EEC. I don't believe that there is conflict between Morocco and Algeria. Rather, there is a misunderstanding between the two governments and it can be settled by these two governments. This means that I do not possess the characteristics of a mediator. Who am I to mediate between? Is it reasonable for me to mediate between a state in which I have no position whatsoever and another state in which I reside as a guest?

[Question] What I mean is that in case you return and assume some responsibilities and tasks, will you engage in such a mediation?

[Answer] I have always been careful to point out that the role that I can play is a role of a popular nature. This means that moving from abroad to a position of power is out of the question under the present circumstances. There are numerous considerations that cannot be disregarded. Moreover, there are numerous issues that must be settled before we can talk about this matter.

Unity Within the Arab Maghreb

[Question] In the wake of the custodian of the two holy mosques' successful mediation between Morocco and Algeria, the emergence of encouraging signs in Tunisian-Libyan relations, and the emergence—in light of the Moroccan monarch's statements—of positive developments pertaining to a settlement of the Sahara issue, do you think that it has become possible to achieve unity within the Arab Maghreb, even if this unity follows the pattern of the GCC and EEC?

[Answer] I support any attempt to eliminate the centers of tension in the Arab area and to replace partition and division by unity. This means that democratic institutions which believe in unity and strengthen interaction between citizen and state must be created. I also support the endeavors made to end the Sahara issue and strengthen the understanding between Morocco and Algeria, the Palestinians and Syria, and the Iraqis and Iranians.

[Question] These are general issues. In light of the abovementioned developments, are you convinced that it is possible to take a step forward in the near future to achieve unity for the Arab Maghreb?

[Answer] Man constantly lives the dream and works to make it a reality. I dream, and I work to turn this dream into a reality. I am optimistic and will continue to be optimistic.

[Question] What we want is your judgment on facts beyond your control. How do you view the initiatives regarding the unity of the Arab Maghreb?

[Answer] The latest developments have strengthened my conviction that it is possible to achieve this dream. What has happened in Tunisia is the greatest sign that the next phase in the Arab Maghreb will be different from the past ones. Tunisia has always, and especially since the outset of this century, been the model emulated in this area. The Arab Maghreb revolutions started in Tunisia in the early 1950's when popular leader Farhat Hashad was assassinated. Tunisia gave our area organizational and cultural concepts which were later embodied in the Algerian and Moroccan revolutions. This is not surprising because Qairawan has been this area's gate to the Arab and Islamic civilization. Therefore, I believe that what happens in Tunisia will have a major impact on the

entire Arab Maghreb area. I have recently visited Tunisia and I have heard encouraging statements from its officials that touch on our recurrent dreams to reunite this area.

[Question] Regarding the Sahara issue, are there tendencies to settle this issue in the near future?

[Answer] As I have already said, I am opposed to partition. If we demand uniting the Arab Maghreb and uniting the Arab nation, then how can we agree to the creation of new entities? The issue is totally settled as far as we are concerned. I am opposed to partition and turning the Sahara into a buffer zone isolating the Arab Maghreb from its African heritage. As for the current trends to settle this issue, I am fully aware that serious endeavors are being made in this regard and that all that is lacking is a good scenario. Serious endeavors are also being made to agree on the method that can be pursued to settle this issue.

08494

SAUDI ARABIA

Article Condemns Violations of Human Rights
44040112 *Al-Jizah* NASHRAH IKHBARIYAH:
AL-MUNAZZAMAH AL-'ARABIYAH LI-HUQUQ
AL-INSAN in Arabic No 15, Dec 87 pp 5-6

[Article: "Human Rights in the Arab Homeland"]

[Excerpts] An Egyptian Citizen Released in Saudi Arabia

The Arab Organization for Human Rights received a report from the family of Mr Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Salam, an Egyptian citizen, stating that Mr 'Abd-al-Salam, who had been under arrest in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was released.

The report indicated that Mr 'Abd-al-Salam and his family were on their way back to Cairo.

The organization had taken action to bring about the release of Mr Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Salam. Upon receiving the complaint regarding his arrest, the organization had implored the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia to release him and end the house arrest imposed on members of his family.

It is worth noting that the complaint received by the organization had mentioned that Mr 'Abd-al-Salam, an Egyptian citizen who was then residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, had been arrested on 4 October 1987 and that a decree had been issued placing his family (his wife and three daughters) under house arrest. His daughters were thus unable to leave the house, even to go to school. The complaint stated that the aforementioned citizen had been employed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for over 6 years as a media advisor to the Chamber of Commerce and an managing editor of a

magazine. The complaint added that the person in question was a literary figure who had authored numerous works of fiction, comprising, according to the complaint, 10 novels and four collections of short stories. The complaint surmised that the measures taken against Mr 'Abd-al-Salam were due to a malicious report which claimed that his stories contained allusions critical of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Even if this were true, restricting the freedom of Mr 'Abd-al-Salam and his family on those grounds remains unjustified.

Needless to say, the organization was quite relieved to receive the news that Mr 'Abd-al-Salam had been released. However, the organization hopes that all cases of prisoners of conscience will be treated in a similar manner so that such corrective measures may gradually replace those measures which in many cases restrict and criminalize freedom of thought, belief and expression.

It is well known that Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulated that "each person has the right to subscribe to his opinions without being harassed. Each person has the right to express himself freely, and that includes the right to seek various kinds of information and ideas in any written, printed, artistic, or any other form of his choice and to receive and convey the same to others without fear of punishment."

Saudi Arabia: New Arrests

The complaint which was received by the Arab Organization for Human Rights was signed by the Committee To Defend Human Rights in Saudi Arabia. It bore news that new arrests had been made in the past few months.

According to the complaint, people who had been under suspicion were arrested in their homes, which the authorities stormed, or they were kidnapped from places where the authorities thought they would find them, such as places of employment or study.

The complaint indicated that these measures were an extension of what it described as an ongoing operation of persecutions, arrests, and arbitrary summons which have been going on unabated for several years.

But the complaint did not reveal the intellectual or political orientation of those who were involved in the recent arrests. It merely described the arrests and stated that they involved numerous "nationalists, progressive people and clergymen who oppose the policies followed by Saudi authorities." The complaint listed several names including those of Fathi Anwar al-Habashi, a student (24 years); Musa Mansur Jalal, a student (35 years); 'Abd-al-Wahid al-Mu'allim, an employee (39 years); 'Ulwi Haydar As'ad, an employee (37 years); and Fawzi Ahmad al-Aswad, a university graduate (35 years). The complaint added that citizens were arrested and

detained for long periods of time and that their families rarely knew where they were being held. In fact, the destiny of many of those who have been arrested remains unknown.

The complaint indicated that emotional and physical torture were often used against detainees and that many of them had lost their lives as a result of torture. According to the complaint, Ja'far Husayn Hamud was one of the victims who died last August. Some reports indicated that his body bore signs of torture. The complaint added that the principal reasons for concern lie in the fact that others are being threatened with the same fate.

The complaint had touched upon the conditions of those who have been released, indicating that although 400 political detainees had been released, most of them were denied the right to return to their previous jobs and the right to take on another one. The complaint added that these people were not allowed to travel and that they were being subjected to considerable harassment. Their opportunities to earn a living were being curtailed and opportunities for members of their families to earn a living were also being curtailed.

The complaint then listed other aspects of tyranny, including the fact that numerous citizens were being arrested in airports and other ports of entry and exit and many of them were being prevented from traveling. The complaint alleges that these people's passports are confiscated merely on suspicion.

The Arab Organization for Human Rights had sent a letter to the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia imploring them to shed light on the detainees' fate. The organization asked the authorities to shed light on the charges against the detainees and on their legal status as well. The organization also implored the authorities to investigate claims that prisoners were being tortured, and it asked them to take measures guaranteeing that such torture would not take place. The organization asked the authorities to decide the detainees' fate promptly by giving them a fair trial if there are specific charges against them, or releasing them promptly if there are no charges against them. With regard to the status of those who had been arrested previously, the organization implored Saudi authorities to guarantee their right to return to their previous positions and to lift the restrictions which have been placed on their right to move and travel.

But the organization has not received a response to its requests.

08592

SUDAN

Ummah Party Views DUP, NIF, Communist Party

45040076b Khartoum SAWT AL-UMMAH 2 Feb 88 p 7

[Article by Hasan Ahmad al-Hasan]

[Excerpts] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stood out as a young political leader the day the fuse of the restorationist revolution against stagnation and backwardness was touched off. The slogans of his appeals were banners, under and around which all the modern forces gathered, rushing headlong toward the future and feeling, among other things, a suffocation imposed by the rust of the backward state our country was living under in this period — accompanied by the phenomena of factionalism and traditionalism.

These restorationist slogans and strong appeals which arose would not have existed had the faith in the need for Sudan to take a prominent position among the other countries not deepened and spread its roots through time—the people of the Sudan whose heroic, struggling history has contained elements which have stabilized these foundations, realized these hopes and supported this faith.

Our political scene today has two parties in coalition, two parties in opposition and other parties of various beliefs and groups.

[It also has] aware, experienced leaders, informed masses, structures requiring restructuring, organizations requiring repair, many problems on all levels, a backward social situation, a strategic location over which foreign countries are struggling with one another, a cultural and geographic disparity, and a historical and civilizational disparity.

This state of affairs is in effect a hot sheet of metal on which any government that arises in such circumstances must sit, and it is a fate which has attached itself to the government of national unity since its formation.

As regards the Ummah Party, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has managed, by his leadership and through his abundance of knowledge and ability, to give of himself and to create such a qualitative revolution in this party that it has become almost the first party to possess deeply rooted intellectual concepts for dealing with all the problems of the Sudan from an independent viewpoint which balances the notion of stability and movement. The Ummah Party has managed, through its intellectual theses and theoretical solutions, to prevail even over the elitist parties which had developed into cultural vacuums established by the way that they were formed.

But has the Ummah Party managed to carry out its program in full? I do not believe so for the following reasons:

First, the process of governing with a partner in power is not an easy one. If the Ummah Party had had a comfortable majority, it would have been able to transcend many obstacles—at least in the executive areas—to settle the issue of ministerial harmony in its own interests, and to establish its policies, for which it would have been held accountable before the masses. Thus its program would have seen the light on the stage of everyday action reflecting the people's way of life and security.

Second, actually participating in government with another party entails constant concessions on all levels, and always engenders doubt and confusion, so that the partner is presumed guilty until proven innocent.

It no sooner offers a concept or expresses its wishes on a subject before this is interpreted as an attempt to coopt or to lay the foundations to acquire the gains of rule. The two parties have seemed more as if they were two eyes staring at one another than one eye watching others. All this is matched by the opposition media's campaigns to cast doubt, which continue to hound achievements, enlarge the abyss of failure and plant doubts between the allies. This exaggerates the image of the regime, in spite of the efforts it is making in the executive context, as a struggle between two parties dividing power or "the spoils," as Dr Hasan al-Turabi always likes to say.

As for the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], there is no argument that Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, through his increasing efforts to give concrete form to an effective role for the party, has managed to offer a lofty service to Sudanese political activity. The DUP is the second party in the country in terms of numbers of votes, and consequently it is a party which can play an effective role regarding the country's stability or instability.

There is no doubt that, under Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani's leadership, and in spite of the ailments gnawing away at the great parties, the DUP has managed to make positive leaps with its position of support, since it has managed to grasp the reins of conciliation initiatives in order to unify its ranks, define its role and give concrete form to its political policy. These are the features which help and strengthen the main political movement in the country.

Therefore a major responsibility lies on the shoulders of Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani to seek to supervise a prominent role in which the party will transcend the obstacles to coalition and the mistakes which provoke anger, so that the two parties may aid one another to guarantee a democratic course far from the ambitions of individuals and struggles of special interests.

The emerging national unity government will not be able to fulfil the commitments that it has made unless its will is integrated and its popular segments aid one another to force those who are betting on the failure of democracy and the Sudanese people's unfitness for it to lose their bet.

There is no doubt that the National Islamic Front [NIF] has managed to be predominant, through a noticeable amount of organization, over the other political forces. This has allowed it to support and condemn when it wishes by mobilizing its elements in various situations to oppose the government's policies. This has made the government's agencies incapable of keeping up with or catching up with moves by the opposition front, which has caused the ruling parties' activities to be a reaction to the opposition more than they are activities which stand on their own.

The NIF's media supremacy has also enabled it to give the political man on the street the coloring it wants, in addition to magnifying and belittling political images as it wishes which are in keeping with its organizational interests when it considers it to be appropriate.

Although the NIF does not have an intellectual or topical dimension, and although it does not constitute a convincing alternative—since it had its opportunity, in full and alone, when it participated in the defunct regime in governing and in its executive agencies at the highest levels—it has managed to fill the informational, organizational and movement vacuum which the major parties left.

When these parties seize the initiative, the scope in which the NIF moves will shrink. When these parties manage to embrace the energies of young men and women in a modern organization by creating new activities and fields for public action which are in keeping with their aspirations to develop their homelands by various means, the big parties will find themselves permanently in the vanguard of political action.

Another point is that the NIF today occupies the informational vacuum which arose from the mediocrity of the government media and, consequently, the government parties have no recourse but to strengthen their media and give them priority, in view of the direct effect that this has in forming public opinion—in addition to using the official media in a plan which serves the goals of government policies in a well considered manner. It will also be able to play a basic role in the processes of mobilizing production and underlining government achievement in all locations and areas.

The Sudanese Communist Party [SCP] began, at the outset of the democratic era, to engage in politics in an intelligent, acceptable manner by initiating topical criticism and offering alternatives in which clear individual

judgment was apparent—in a way which revealed the party's incapability of changing, and its failure to offer convincing alternatives. It contented itself with mere criticism.

However, the SCP has lost greatly by failing to clarify its position of partiality toward the rebel movement, toward which it was drawn out of its belief that it is a movement which raises progressive slogans. This partiality arises on many occasions under the cover of peace, which has caused it to lose a lot of mutual solidarity with the people. Indeed, on many occasions, this has put it in the dock of the accused.

Unless the SCP relinquishes its adherence to the rebel movement and the manifestation of its feelings toward it, it will lose greatly, whatever slogans it utters under the cover of peace and national unity. Until this takes place, its role in influencing the movement of the people, whose positions on all levels have been distinguished, will be limited and isolated.

11887

TUNISIA

Government Publications To Change Names

45000036 Tunis LA PRESSE in French 2 Mar 88 p 2

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the Constitutional Democratic Party (RCD) met yesterday morning at Carthage Palace, chaired by Mr. Zine El Abidine El Ali, president of the RCD.

The purpose of the meeting was to study the results of the last session of the Central Committee and the decisions reached at it.

The Political Bureau has, furthermore, looked into ways to further the development of the RCD press. With this in view, it has decided to change the names of the RCD organs published in Arabic and French. Thus L'ACTION becomes LE RENOUVEAU and AL AMAL becomes AL HOURRIA. These changes will take place on 20 March.

Other issues were raised related to strengthening the activities of Constitutional Democratic students and RCD foreign relations.

The Political Bureau has, moreover, studied the program in preparation for the extraordinary congress of the RCD.

INDIA

Japan To Extend 'Massive Aid' to Indian Public Sector

46001293 Madras *THE HINDU* in English
7 Feb 88 p 1

[Article by K.V. Narain]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 6—Japan will extend close to \$ one billion in developmental and commodity aid to India this year for various public and private sector projects, it is authoritatively learnt here today.

The aid will be channelled directly through Japanese financial institutions such as the Export-Import Bank and multilateral institutions like the Asian Development Bank. A notable feature of the aid is that much of it will be untied. Although they are commercial loans, they will be long-term loans repayable in about 20 years and carry a relatively low interest rate of about 5.3 per cent.

These loans will be quite apart from the project aid that Japan has been extending every year as a member of the Aid-India Consortium. An official Japanese team is visiting India next month to study the projects for which India is seeking aid during the forthcoming fiscal year and the quantum of Japanese aid will be formally announced at the annual Consortium meeting in Paris next June. The project aid last year totalled about \$475 millions.

Aid for NTPC Projects

Of the new loans, Japan is expected to provide \$450 millions for three or four projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation, some of which like the gas-based power project are already being financed by the World Bank. The loan for these projects, to come from the Export-Import Bank, will be untied.

The Export-Import Bank will also provide some \$110 millions for the railways' modernisation project for which the Asian Development Bank has already provided \$190 millions.

The Ex-Im Bank will also provide a loan to the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for aiding various private and public sector projects. The details are to be worked out but the indications are that Japan will provide a minimum of \$150 millions to the IDBI, with the distinct prospect that it will go up.

The president of the Ex-Im Bank, Mr. Tanaka, left for Delhi today for discussions with Indian officials particularly in regard to the loan for the IDBI.

In addition to these loans, Japan had already announced at the time of the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's brief visit to Tokyo late last year a soft commodity loan of \$200 millions (interest rate of 2.75 per cent) for drought relief.

/06091

Hegde Rule Examined

Commentary Asserts Decline in Support

46240012 Calcutta *RAVIVAR* in Hindi
16 Jan 88 pp 36-37, 39

[Excerpts] Nearly five years ago the Janta Party promised to eradicate corruption from Karnataka State and provide it with a clean administration. In the initial two years of the administration one really had a feeling that it was a well-oiled government. During this period Hegde himself was developing the reputation of an intelligent and efficient chief minister. But gradually Hegde kept losing his magic and his government proved to be a government in decline.

Today the Janta Party is celebrating five-years of rule and it may believe that it is a popular government but the people are angry at its failures. Proof of this can be demonstrated from the fact that when recently the Janta Party Chairman M. P. Prakash and Chief Minister Ramkrishan Hegde toured the rural areas of northern and central Karnataka, they were met with black flags. Those who held these flags were not the members of the Belgaon's Maharashtra Unification society but were masses of common people. People's resentment is increasing due to a 100 percent increase in electricity rates, senseless rise in water rates and milk prices, and denationalization of education in the state. Perhaps this is why Ramkrishan Hegde, who promised to hold five general elections in five years, has suspended municipal and cooperative societies' elections for the next six months.

At the moment, there is a vigorous discussion going on in the state that the young comrades of Hegde are second to none in corruption. The funny thing is that a sort of cold war is going on between the young and the old ministers. The young ministers charge their senior colleagues with corruption and the senior ministers retort that the young ministers operate like a gang in collecting funds. P.R.G. Sindhya, Jivraj Allwa, and Inamdar are generally considered to be the best fund raisers. According to the senior ministers, these young ministers are particularly close to Hegde; because of them the reputation of the ministry is hurt.

But supporters of Ramkrishan Hegde do not concede this. According to them, by giving an opportunity to these new ministers, Hegde has raised a new generation of able men. To support their assertion, they quote as examples Abdul Nazir and M. P. Prakash. At the time, the disgruntled elements admittedly do not command

much of a voice in the Janta Party. Estimates vary regarding the number of malcontents. Hegde's supporters put their number at between 20 to 25, but the last time the malcontents made a verbal complaint to the chairman of the Janta Party against Hegde, their number was significant. It would not be irrelevant to point out that during the organizational elections, when a showdown was imminent between Ramkrishan Hegde's supporter minister Abdul Nazir and Janta Party's member in the upper house, and the senior leader Gurupad Swami, the name of socialist M. P. Prakash emerged as a compromise candidate. Even on this issue a disgruntled legislator has said that out of the 10 legislator's signatures on M. P. Prakash's form, only six signatures are genuine.

Meanwhile, Ramkrishan Hegde's reputation was hurt by the decisions of the High Court and the Supreme Court in the Ark (Distillery?) case; moreover, he had to face much embarrassment because of the manner of acquittal of Congressman Moeli by the joint commission under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Desai in the Tape case. Now Ramkrishan Hegde says that the commission was not appointed by him. At the time when a controversy was going on regarding the bribing of legislators in the state assembly, legislators from both sides demanded a judicial inquiry. The Chief Minister accepted their demand and announced the appointment of a commission. Ramkrishan Hegde insists that the commission should have sent the tape to America for voice identification. Regarding the Distillery case, the supporters of Ramkrishan Hegde concede that the distillery lobby has been powerful for quite some time. It is because of efforts by this lobby that Hanumanthayya had to leave. To weaken this lobby, Ramkrishan Hegde amended the rules regarding filling of bottles, which were challenged on technical grounds in the court.

The year 1988 is a non-election year for Ramkrishan Hegde. Perhaps that is why he had the courage to increase electricity, bus, and milk rates. Hegde says that the state expenditure will exceed the figure approved by the planning commission, which is the reason for the increase in prices. In its first year, the Karanataka government exceeded its budget by 300 million rupees; the next year the expenditure went over the budget by 1,300 million rupees. The state consistently suffered from drought, and the cost of living allowance for government employees had to be raised five times. Ramkrishan Hegde himself admits that Karanataka's economy is in bad shape.

Hegde has a tough challenge to face on the economic front. He also has to deal with farmers' unity; farmers have organized a political party under the leadership of Nanjan Swami. The admirers of film actor Rajkumar, who initially were expected to join this party, have not yet joined Nanjan Swami. Nanjan Swami's way is one of struggle and Rajkumar's people are not in a position to

court any trouble. But Nanjan Swami, Rajkumar's admirers, and the dissidents are together stirring up a big crisis for Ramkrishan Hegde.

Otherwise, Ramkrishan Hegde does not give much importance to Nanjan Swami. Ramkrishan Hegde says that Nanjan Swami may have learned farming while teaching in a law college; whereas, Hegde knows the reality of farmers. Hegde also acknowledges that Nanjan Swami's organization has never been of any help and in the district board elections which he actually lost.

In the state one wave is easy to see: The wave of resentment among the common masses. "We had hoped for a more honest administration from Hegde," said a receptionist working in a hotel. When asked about Hegde, a rickshaw puller said, "I belong to Indira Gandhi's party and not to the party of the priest Janardan." "Every ration card holder has received a loan of 5,000 rupees," said a woman. "But the grant of loans will not do any good to the Congress because the Congress has no party machinery," said a Youth Janata worker. Priest Janardan is Ramkrishan Hegde's top gun. Because of him the Congress has declined in south Kanera. Earlier Oscar Fernandes was the chairman of the State Congress but now Janardan from South Kanera holds that office.

Since the summer of last year, Ramkrishan Hegde's government began to feel that its influence was on the decline. The information and tourism minister, M. P. Prakash admits that it was only because of the decline that he and the chief minister decided to tour Karanataka's rural areas. Even Hegde's vocal supporters are angry at the way education has been denationalized in the state. An official of a telephone manufacturing company said, "Now children cannot get admission even to schools without a donation." Keeping in view the growing sentiment against it, the government took many steps, for example the decision not to open any professional colleges and not to grant any more liquor and bar licenses in the current year. Each year for the past four years, the government has permitted the opening of a professional college. That is why there are 17 medical colleges in the Karanataka State out of which four are government colleges. The same holds true of engineering colleges, of which there are more than 50 in the Hegde's state. Because of the liberalness with which this government has granted licenses to liquor shops, their number has doubled.

The manner in which the Janta government raised electricity rates was bound to create resentment among the middle class. It was not the first time on 2 May that Ramkrishan Hegde's government raised rates for electricity for domestic use; it was the third time since 1983. When the government raised electricity rates in 1985, it promised that during the next three years there would not be any more rate hikes; before 1987 arrived, the industry and electricity minister was forced to eat his words.

Hegde's critics include not only the common masses but include Karnataka's chief minister, S. Nijalingappa, who first had a post in Hegde's ministry and was the chief minister from November, 1956 to 1958, and again from 1962 to 1968. In state politics, two people are considered the adopted sons of Nijalingappa, Virender Patil and Ramkrishan Hegde. Today Nijalingappa admits that Ramkrishan Hegde is very cunning. Nijalingappa told Ravivar that he quite dislikes Ramkrishan Hegde's personal publicity. The second reason for Nijalingappa's unhappiness concerns Ramkrishan Hegde's encouragement of caste quarrels. This elder statesman of the Organization Congress believes that the influence of wealth in Karnataka has increased and that no party or leader is honest. There is no dearth of leaders and workers who believe that corruption in Karnataka has not diminished. Even Gundu Rav, who took a vow of silence for one year, has begun to speak against the Hegde government. Gundu Rav believes that by renting government land, people in the government are making a lot of money.

Meanwhile, Ramkrishan Hegde is working to rejuvenate the Janta. The question is: Will Ramkrishan Hegde be able to work a miracle by bringing 100,000 people from rural areas in 1,000 buses to take part in a rally to mark the five year celebrations? It does not appear to be possible. Only the future can tell how far Ramkrishan Hegde can go in winning the villagers' confidence. Meanwhile, the chief minister of the country's only state under Janta Party rule is losing his lustre.

Interview With Hegde

46240012 Calcutta RAVIVAR in Hindi 16 Jan 88 p 38

[Text] It is not easy to see the Karnataka Chief Minister Ramkrishan Hegde in Bangalore. All day Sunday he kept silent. At the start of the week a long line of visitors waited for him. After making only two appointments in a single day, Ramkrishan Hegde could not meet the RAVIVAR journalist in his official residence, "Krishna". He met the RAVIVAR reporter the next day in the official guest house, Kumarkripa, despite a crowd of eager visitors. Following are a few excerpts from the conversation.

[Question] Five years of the Janta Party's rule in Karnataka have passed. How do you look at it? What is your personal assessment?

[Answer] When I reflect on the achievements of five years, I am pleased yet to an extent, I am also angry. I am pleased because whatever we did, we did in the face of great difficulties. The anger is there because far more could have been done.

Five years ago when the Janta Party came in power, very few people believed that the Janta Party would survive. The first two years passed with great difficulty. Karnataka's Congress party and Delhi kept doing everything possible to get rid of our government. In the first two

years, our survival was at stake and challenges were manifold. It is then that I thought that we will have to accomplish something to show the Karnataka public that we are different from the Congress. In this, I succeeded.

[Question] During the last several years, you have occupied the office of chief minister 'unwillingly'. Do you feel that your role as the chief minister is over?

[Answer] Shall I tell you the simple, honest truth? The day we established the Panchayati raj here, that was on 30 April, that day I felt that my work in Karnataka was finished.

In 1983 I had no idea that I would have to accept the responsibility of the chief minister's office, but it was a party directive. The party wanted me to come here. At that time I had a great sense of duty, but I have not come to live here forever. We have got the election manifesto ready. Now what is left to be done? Now it is only a question of running the administration. In conversation with friends I have spoken of leaving the chief minister's office, but it does not mean that I will go on to accept a position on the national level. I have no such plan. I do not want to become the chairman of the Janta party. Nor do I want to emerge as an alternative to Rajiv Gandhi. I do not suffer from any such illusion. I feel that if my work is done, I should vacate this place, so that the leadership here may flourish. Once I mentioned this and people scolded me very much and they were angry.

[Question] How do you view the Congress - the opposition party in Karnataka?

[Answer] In Karnataka, if there is any alternative to the Janta Party, it is the Congress. If the people become displeased with the Janta party, they have the Congress. The same situation faces Telgu Desham in Andhra. Whenever there has been a revolution in a state, the same situation exists. In Assam, Ganprishad faces the Congress. In Orissa, the Congress Party faces the Janta Party, and in Haryana, Lok Dal has the Congress as its rival. In Karnataka the Congress is not united. There are many squabbles and the leadership lacks men of ability. For this Mrs Gandhi was responsible. She did not let elections take place after 1969 and did not let the second and third cadre of leadership grow.

[Question] By having so many ministers in the Karnataka Ministry, what sort of ideal are you upholding? Besides the 38 ministers the chairmen of district boards have been accorded the status of ministers. This excludes members of the board. In all there are 100 members.

[Answer] This is not the first time. When the number of Karnataka's lower house stood at 116, even then there were 35 ministers. In Assam also there are 35 ministers. The case in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal is similar. In the days of Anjappa there were 50 to 54 ministers.

[Question] By giving these examples, what do you want to establish? Does their mistake justify your mistake?

[Answer] I am not justifying it. I was forced to do it. In some districts not a single member of the backward classes could be elected. In some districts not a single member from the scheduled castes was elected. From Gulbarga every member elected was from high castes. In South Karanataka only one member was elected. If I want to include representatives of those classes, how do I do it? Our party's intention was that one representative should be chosen from each district. If representatives are chosen from 20 districts, there was a preponderance of high castes. In order to counterbalance them I had to have a large ministry. Over half the members in our ministry are from backward castes or classes.

[Question] Are you thinking of reducing the number of ministers?

[Answer] I believe that such a large ministry is not necessary. As soon as I get the opportunity I will reduce the number.

[Question] It is generally said that you have basically undertaken populist steps and that during the past five years you have been seeking personal publicity.

[Answer] I have never sought publicity. True, because of some of our programs our government has definitely become popular. For instance the widows' pension, the three months maternity leave for pregnant working women, the free text books plan, and the plan to provide grain and clothes at concession rates for those below the poverty level. Where is the publicity for this?

[Question] Do you feel that you have lost your charisma?

[Answer] No, I do not feel like that.

Earlier when I once went abroad for treatment, this propaganda was in full swing. then, too, people were saying things such as my popularity has run its course, but I always kept testing myself. During the past five years there have been five general elections in Karanataka. We have been successful in these elections. How has my charisma died?

12286/12223

Delhi Allocates Funds for Superconductivity Research

46001290 Madras *THE HINDU* in English
5 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 4—The first rupee on superconductivity research and development is likely to be spent by the government in a few weeks. At a high-powered meeting held on Tuesday in the Prime Minister's Secretariat to decide on the priority programmes and resource allocations in this rapidly developing area funding to the

extent of Rs. 15 crores has been accepted by the Government. This was the money recommended by the co-ordinating committee for research in superconductivity under the chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao, who is also the Chairman of the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM). This decision comes more than a year after the achievement of the major scientific breakthrough of High-Temperature Superconductivity (HTS) where Indian scientists have also made some kind of world mark.

In the hierarchy of bodies set up to formulate and implement a co-ordinated programme of research since the first efforts of the Indian scientific community produced results in HTS, the highest is the Apex Body headed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The AB includes the heads of various Government departments and bureaucrats from different ministries as well as Prof. Rao and a few other scientists.

The AB expresses the political will of the Government actively to support R&D in HTS. Under this AB is Prof. Rao's co-ordinating committee, called the Project Management Board (PMB), and has as its members representatives from the various institutes, industries and agencies involved in HTS research. The PMB functions under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Two Task Forces Formed

Given the mandate of the PMB to identify areas of R&D in HTS and make recommendations on the funding patterns for a national action plan to the AB, the Board had in turn constituted two task forces, one on basic research and the other on technology applications, with experts in the field drawn from various institutes actively engaged in research in the field. The task force for basic research is headed by Prof. R. Vijayaraghavan of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bombay, and has Prof. T.V. Ramakrishnan of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, as the co-chairman and that on applications is chaired by Dr. P.K. Lyengar, Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), and co-chaired by Dr. Virendra Mohan, Chairman, Semiconductor Complex Ltd. (SCL), Chandigarh.

The task forces, after several meetings, had presented their reports to the PMB in December 1987. The required funding estimated by the task forces for carrying out significant research was of the order of Rs. 30 crores over a period of three years.

Speaking about basic research, Prof. Vijayaraghavan said "during the first few months of worldwide activity we were at par with several other institutions of the world. Currently there is an intensive studying of materials using techniques which we lack in our country. This will be made up when this funding becomes available."

On the applications front the areas identified are thin films, ceramic-based electronic materials, Josephson junctions and Superconducting Interference Devices (SQUIDS), development of superconducting wires and VLSI designs based on these new superconducting materials. Some of the institutions which have made proposals to the task forces are the BARC, the TIFR, the IISc, the IIT Madras and the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi, in basic research and the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), the BARC, the IIT Delhi and Kharagpur, the TIFR, the IISc, the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad and the Central Electronic Engineering Research Institute (CEERI), Pilani, in technology applications.

Four Centres To Work on Thin Films

Prof. Rao said four centres had been identified to conduct work in the area of thin films, SCL for electronic applications, the NFC and the NPL for wires, the BHEL for making prototype generators and several places for material synthesis and preparation. The Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IRE), Alwaye, has been given the charter of providing rare-earth materials in sufficient quantities to carry out a sustained programme of R&D.

"Though the quality of research varies there is quite an amount of effort. But in the whole country we do not even have one good furnace to fabricate these new oxides. Most of the initial funding will go towards equipment and infrastructural development for basic research as well as technological applications," said Prof. Rao. Appropriate funding of research in some major centres, which will also include some fellowship schemes to give opportunities to the younger people, will also be met by the PMB through this amount, he said.

According to Prof. Vijayaraghavan, the task forces in their exercises had also catalogued the needs of institutions other than the leading institutions.

Seed Money

Apparently, the University Grants Commission (UGC), one of the agencies represented in the PMB, has already provided seed money—of the order of a few crores apart from the expected direct money from the Government—for a broad-based funding to support training in the science, engineering and technology of superconductivity, which forms a component of the coordinated programme, either at the Ph.D or at the post-doctoral level research.

The Finance Secretary, who was present in Tuesday's meeting, has promised that the money would become available before the annual budget. In fact, a notional sum of about Rs. 10 crores or so has already been allocated in the year's budget towards superconductivity research and the scientists have been promised that the additional amount of Rs. 5 crores will be found somehow.

/06091

ONGC Chairman Discloses Future Exploration Plans

46001289 New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Feb 88 p 9

[Text] The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) plans to take up exploration activities in waters beyond 200 metres depths where oil reserves may be more than five billion tonnes.

This was disclosed by ONGC Chairman Col S.P. Wahi during an informal chat with newsmen in the Capital on Tuesday. He said exploration beyond the 200 metres water depth would be in the east and west coast as also off the coast of Andamans.

The ONGC, which has declared 1988 as the Year of Productivity, is optimistic and hopeful that it would be able to recover the basement oil located in the Bombay High offshore areas.

He said oil had been found in the basement rocks and ONGC was developing the technology to locate the fractures in the rock structure and get the oil. If successful, it would double the Bombay High reserves extending the life of the oil field beyond the present estimated time span.

Major General S.C.N. Jatar, chairman and managing director of Hydrocarbons India Limited (HIL), told newsmen that they were going to seek exploration areas in Vietnam, Tanzania and Malaysia while their cooperation in Sri Lanka was proceeding as per the accord.

He said that a team was soon going to Vietnam for negotiating a contract and if the company could get areas abroad it would help it to augment the oil supply of the country if HIL managed to find.

Col Wahi was confident that the production targets for the current year would be met and ONGC would be able to produce six per cent more than the previous year and in the next year it would produce seven per cent more than the current year.

Asked how the company would be able to produce four million tonnes more than the present capacity, he said the extra four million tonnes would come from the Assam, Gandhar and Bombay High among other fields.

During his informal chat, Col Wahi also made a presentation of the conceptual plan up to 2005 AD for both oil and gas production and the steps they were taking to improve productivity through better training and technology by opening up specialised institutions to take care of different needs.

He said a number of advisory councils were being set up to help develop an organisation culture where decisions were taken after discussions. Thus, ONGC had an advisory council for exploration and would soon be setting up one on management in which presidents of all the unions would be members.

According to Col Wahi, ONGC's human resource development plan had paid off and today all its members were from within the organisation as against all being from outside in 1980-81.

He said soon they would also be setting up such an advisory council for finance to help manage the vast resources of the company.

He referred to the ONGC's move to farm out low technology areas to cooperatives of workers and keep the high technology areas with the management, and said they were now disinvesting even in the offshore supply vessels area by giving it out to private ventures or joint ventures.

Col Wahi claimed that an aggressive exploration and innovative production strategy now adopted by ONGC would lead to an 80 per cent cumulative increase in the output of oil and oil equivalent of gas during the Seventh Plan as compared to the Sixth Plan.

The strategy involved intensifying exploratory efforts in the producing basins of Bombay Offshore, Cambay and Upper Assam. It also included expanding exploratory efforts in the category two and three basins covering the Himalayan Foothills, Krishna Godavari, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam and Andamans.

India has an estimated hydrocarbon resource of over 16 billion tonnes. Of this, only four billion tonnes have been converted into "geological in place reserves".

The ONGC also plans to produce 8.50 lakh tonnes of LPG per year by the end of the Seventh Plan, constituting nearly 50 per cent of the projected annual indigenous production of LPG. At present, every third cylinder in the country is filled with LPG produced by ONGC. By 1990, every alternate cylinder would have LPG produced by the ONGC, he said.

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Papers Summarize Sarkaria Commission Recommendations

Brief Overall Summary

46001309 Calcutta *THE SUNDAY STATESMAN* in English 31 Jan 88 p 9

[Article: "Sarkaria Panel for Setting Up of Inter-State Council"]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 30.—The setting up of an inter-State council under Article 263 for resolving Centre-State problems is among the 247 recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission officially released here today, reports PTI.

The recommendations, a summary of which was released, suggest enlargement of the financial resources of States, restraint in enacting laws on subjects in the Concurrent List, greater degree of decentralization of powers, restrictions of Centrally-sponsored schemes on matters in State List and improvement to the strengthening of the National Development Council, the Planning Commission and the all-India services.

The commission has set out principles to be adopted in appointing the Chief Minister as well as in the dismissal of a Ministry. It has recommended that the requirement of a consultation with the Chief Minister on the appointment of a person as Governor of the State should be prescribed in the Constitution itself.

The commission has stated that the principle of Union supremacy in the executive field as envisaged in article 256 and 257 of the Constitution should remain intact. It has recommended a more extensive and generous use of Article 258, which permits entrustment of Centre's functions to the State, for progressive decentralization of Central Government's powers.

It has made detailed suggestions or guidance of the Centre and the States, including observing of a time-frame for dealing with Bills referred by the Governor to the Centre for assent.

The commission has observed that the provisions of the Constitution regarding emergency powers and President's Rule were made with the object of ensuring the integrity of the national and not conceived as a grant of overriding powers to the Union.

The commission observes that while the power to impose President's Rule under Article 356 was necessary it should be used very sparingly and in extreme cases when all available alternatives fail to prevent a breakdown of the Constitutional machinery.

It has described as clearly improper the bulk imposition of President's Rule in 1977 and 1980. It has suggested an amendment of Article 356 to provide that material facts and grounds justifying President's Rule should form part of the proclamation.

It has suggested that when President's Rule is imposed the Legislative Assembly should not be dissolved before the Parliament approves the proclamation.

On the use of Armed Forces, the Commission has said it was entirely for the Union government to decide suo moto whether the situation was such that they (Armed Forces) should be deployed in the State. However, it was desirable to consult the State concerned wherever feasible before deploying the Armed Forces otherwise than at the request of the State.

The commission has suggested that grants should be given to the States in lieu of railway passenger fare tax as recommended by the Finance Commission.

The commission has said that the Centre should give its consent to the States for borrowing from banks for periods less than one year. The system of tax free municipal bonds should be introduced.

It has made detailed suggestions for effective functioning of the Finance Commission and suggested its terms of reference should be drawn up after informal consultations with the States and there should be no delay in implementation of the recommendations.

Intergovernmental Council Proposed

46001309 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English
2 Feb 88 p 8

[Article: "Sarkaria Moets States' Council"]

[Text] New Delhi, February 1 (PTI):. The Sarkaria commission has recommended that the interstate council, called the inter-governmental council (IGC), proposed to be set up under Article 263 of the Constitution should be a permanent body.

The commission has recommended that the IGC should be charged with duties set out in clause B and C of the Article 263 other than socio-economic planning and development.

The National Development Council (NDC) should maintain its separate identity but should have a formal status and its duties should be reaffirmed through a presidential order under Article 263 of the Constitution.

The NDC should be renamed as the national economic and development council, the commission has recommended.

The IGC would evolve guidelines for identification and selection of issues to be brought before it and will ensure that only matters of national importance relating to subjects of common interest are brought up.

The council, the commission has recommended, would comprise a general body assisted by a smaller standing committee. The Prime Minister will be the common chairman of the two bodies.

The general body members would be all chief ministers and Union cabinet ministers, including those ministers dealing with subjects of common interest to the centre and the states.

The standing committee will have six chief ministers, one from each zone selected annually and six Union cabinet ministers nominated by the Prime Minister.

The general body would meet at least twice a year and the standing committee at least four times annually.

Every general body meeting should be held in camera and its proceedings conducted like the Union cabinet meetings.

The standing committee would first discuss all matters proposed to be referred to the general body of the IGC, the commission has recommended. Normally, the general body would discuss only those matters recommended by the standing committee.

The meetings of the standing committee would also be held in camera. With the chairman's permission any general body member could attend the meeting.

The Prime Minister may nominate any other Central cabinet minister to preside over the standing committee meetings in his absence.

The IGC and its standing committee should be able to set up ad hoc subcommittees to investigate special matters.

The commission wants reconstitution under Article 263 of the five zone councils constituted under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

The north-eastern council, set up under the North-Eastern Council Act, should function as the zonal council for the north-eastern states in addition to its existing functions, the commission has recommended.

A chairman among the chief ministers of the member states may be elected annually by rotation.

The zonal council secretariat may be located in a capital of one of the member states.

Proposals for Radio, Television

46001309 New Delhi *PATRIOT* in English 1 Feb 88 p 6

[Article: "Sarkaria for Use of Hindustani on Radio, TV"]

[Text] The Sarkaria Commission has called for decentralisation to a reasonable extent in the day-to-day operations of the State run radio and television and use of simple Hindustani, reports PTI.

In its voluminous report, the Commission observes that the two mass media should constantly strive for harmonious adjustment between the imperatives of national interest and varied needs and aspirations of States and their inhabitants.

It suggests that Hindi used in broadcasts should be enriched as assimilating common words from Hindustani and the other languages referred in Article 351 (directive for development of the Hindi language) eighth

schedule. This should be done so that all people gradually get used to a uniform vocabulary, at least for certain common terms all over the country. Steps also should be taken for enrichment of Hindi on a high priority basis.

National integration could be promoted through programmes of national importance being broadcast and telecast in the local language, the Commission observed.

The Commission further observed that inter-linking of all radio stations through the Insat would enable AIR to broadcast programmes of one station to the other. It was necessary that such linking of radio stations should be made fully operational as quickly as possible.

During the seventh five year Plan Doordarshan proposes to set up in each State capital a programme production centre and to link the centre to the transmitters in the States through microwave circuits or satellites, the Commission says. While implementing this scheme, the highest priority may be accorded to setting up such centres and linking regional broadcasts from each State capital with those areas in the State which suffer from the maximum handicap in understanding Hindi and English broadcasts, the Commission observed.

Every production centre should produce sufficient software in the language of the region so as to fill all the time except that which may be reasonably required for English and Hindi broadcasts. Software development should give special attention to propagation in regional languages of ideas of national integration and unity, it says.

Early arrangements may be made for translation of national news broadcasts into regional languages or for the dubbing of such news in regional languages as may be appropriate and for simultaneous translation or dubbing and transmission, the Commission recommends.

Earmarking a particular time period for the national programme in English and Hindi should not be uniformly rigid. It should be left to each station or kendra to take into account the prime time for the urban and rural areas falling within its range and to decide on which programme should be transmitted or broadcast and at what time.

The proposed inter-governmental council recommended by the Commission may consider whether any relaxation of the existing ground rules for political use of the broadcasting system should be allowed and if so under what conditions.

The Commission recommends that if a State government has serious complaints about the use of the media it can approach the inter-governmental council.

The Commission suggested that a competent non-political non-official may be made chairman of the programme advisory committee attached to each AIR station or Doordarshan kendra. The director in charge of the kendra or station could be the deputy chairman of the committee which originates programmes for a duration of not less than five and a half hours every day, the Commission says.

The Commission has also suggested the formation of a standing committee for the union territories. It observes that all matters which need to be sorted out between the Central Government and the union territory with a legislator may be discussed by the standing committee. The committee may have the Union Home Minister as chairman and the Lt Governor and chief minister of the union territory as members.

When a matter concerning a union ministry other than home affairs comes up before the committee, the Central minister concerned may be associated.

Police, River Waters, Farm Tax

46001309 New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Feb 88 p 5

[Article: "Sarkaria for Strengthening State Police Force"]

[Text] The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations has suggested that each State Government work out with the Union Government short-term and long-term arrangements for strengthening its armed police force, reports UNI.

The objective will be to become largely self-reliance in the matter of armed police so that the assistance of the Union armed forces will be necessary only in cases of very severe disturbances.

The Commission has recommended that the Union Government immediately examine the question of adequate financial assistance to States for augmenting and strengthening their armed force battalions.

The extent of Central assistance to be made available to States during the next five-year plan may be specifically referred to the next Finance Commission.

The Commission has recommended that a group of neighbouring States may, by consensus, have a standing arrangement for the use of one month's armed police in case of need.

The Union Government may devise by consensus the regional groupings, keeping in view contiguity and logistics, and encourage States to participate fully.

The zonal council would be the best forum for achieving consensus of the States within a zone. The Union Government would, under this arrangement, monitor, coordinate and control any inter-State Governments State armed police.

A beginning may be made immediately to plan the use of armed police inter-State within a region, the Commission has suggested.

The Sarkaria Commission has desired that this arrangement should be only for meeting special demands for short periods from the State in a group. Their police will not merge or get integrated but will remain distinct as hitherto.

The Commission has recommended that while assisting a State Government and, if necessary, strengthening its armed forces, the Union Government may take the following into account:

- the degree of confidence that the people of the State have in the State police, armed and unarmed.
- if large-scale public disorders are frequent, the causes and the steps which the State Government should take on the social, economic and other fronts to prevent disorder. (Mere strengthening of forces may not achieve the objective).
- the inadvisability of a State (particularly a small State) in expanding its armed police, if it cannot be fully utilised throughout the year and
- the feasibility of more efficient utilisation of State police.

The Commission has held that the existing relationship between the Union armed forces and the State civil authorities and the manner of their functioning as prescribed in the relevant Union laws and procedures do not need any change.

However, before the Union Government deploys its armed forces in a State in aid of the civil power otherwise than on a request from the State Government, or declares an area within the State as "disturbed", it is desirable that the State Government be consulted, wherever feasible, and its cooperation sought, even though prior consultation with States is not obligatory.

The Sarkaria Commission has suggested that the various measures proposed by the National Police Commission in its seventh report for improving the effectiveness and morals of the State armed police are commended for the consideration of State Governments.

The problem of cadre, management, mobility and promotion prospects of police personnel in small States, especially in the Northeast, needs to be carefully examined by State Governments in consultation with the Union Government, the Commission has suggested.

There should be a system of interchange of the officers of State armed police forces with those of the CRPF, BSF and Union armed forces. They should also have common regional training centres, the Commission has recommended.

River Water

The commission has recommended that the inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, be amended to make tribunals' award truly binding on States.

The Commission is of the view that such an award should have the same force and sanction behind it as an order or decree of the Supreme Court.

The Commission has desired that once an application under section three of the act is received, it should be mandatory on the Union Government to constitute a tribunal within a period not exceeding one year from the date of receipt of the application.

The Commission has recommended that the act be amended to ensure that a tribunal's award becomes effective within five years from the date of its constitution.

If, however, for some reasons, a tribunal feels the five-year period has to be extended, the Union Government may, on a reference made by the tribunal, extend its term, the Commission has suggested.

Farm Tax

The Commission has called for an indepth study of the question of taxing agricultural income noting that it "is a sensitive matter".

The Commission has pointed out that both the Union and the State Governments are not inclined at present for a change in the constitutional provision regarding entry 46 of list II.

Many problems have been highlighted by the Union and State Governments in connection with the levy of such a tax.

Appointment Safeguards

46001309 Calcutta *THE STATESMAN* in English
5 Feb 88 p 4

[Article: "Sarkaria Commission Provides Safeguards"]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 4.—The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations has found a case for providing safeguards against misuse of powers relating to appointments of commissions of inquiry, reports UNI.

The Commission, does not however, find it necessary to amend the Constitution for the purpose. In its opinion the fact that power is capable of being misused, is not ground for amending the constitution.

The Commission has suggested that the safeguards can be:

1. That no commission of inquiry against an incumbent or former Minister of a State Government on charges of abuse of power or misconduct shall be appointed by the Union Government unless both the Houses of Parliament, by resolution of the majority of members present and voting, require the Union Government to appoint such a commission.

2. No commission of enquiry shall be appointed to inquire into the conduct of a Minister Government with respect to a matter of public importance touching his conduct while in office, unless the proposal is first placed before the inter-governmental council and has been cleared by it.

3. Appropriate safeguards on these lines be provided in the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, itself, against the possible misuse of this power, while appointing a commission to inquire into the conduct of a Minister or Ministers of a State Government.

Legislative Powers

On sharing of legislative powers, the Sarkaria Commission is of the view that when a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State for abolition or creation of a Legislative Council in the State is received, the President shall cause the resolution to be placed within a reasonable time, before Parliament, together with the comments of the Union Government. Parliament may accept or reject the request contained in the resolution. If the resolution is adopted by Parliament, the Union Government shall introduce necessary legislation for implementation by amending the Constitution if necessary.

The Commission has recommended that the best way of working Union-State relations in the sphere of education would be according to the norms and standards of performances determined by the Union and professional bodies such as the UGC, but the actual implementation is always left to the States. A system of monitoring would have to be established by the Centre.

The Commission is of the view that ordinarily, the Union should occupy only that much field of a concurrent subject on which uniformity of policy and action is essential in the larger interest of the nation, leaving the rest of details for the State.

Whenever the Centre proposes to undertake legislation on the Concurrent List, it must consult the States individually and collectively with the inter-governmental council.

Residuary Powers

The Commission has recommended that residuary powers of legislation with regard to taxation matters should continue to remain exclusively in the competence of Parliament, while the residuary field other than that of taxation, should be placed in the Concurrent List by suitably amending the Constitution.

The enforcement of Union laws, particularly those relating to the Concurrent sphere, is secured through the machinery of States. Co-ordination of policy and action in all areas of concurrent or overlapping jurisdiction is therefore a pre-requisite of smooth and harmonious working of the dual system. To secure uniformity on the basic issues of rational policy with respect of a proposed legislation, consultation may be carried out with the States, the Commission has recommended.

Governor Appointment

The Commission has also recommended guidelines for appointment of Governors. In its report the Commission has suggested that Article 155 of the Constitution should be suitably amended to prescribe consultations with the State Chief Minister on the appointment of the Governor.

The Commission has stipulated that a person to be appointed as a Governor should satisfy the following criteria:

1. He should be eminent in some walk of life
2. He should be a person from outside the State.
3. He should not be too intimately connected with the local politics of the State.
4. He should be a person who has not taken too great a part in politics generally, and particularly in the recent past.

The Commission has recommended that the Vice-President of India and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha may be consulted by the Prime Minister in selecting a Governor. The consultation should be confidential and not a matter of Constitutional obligation.

The Commission is of the view that it is desirable that a politician from the ruling party at the Union is not appointed as Governor of a State which is being run by some other party or a combination of other parties.

Termination

The Governor's tenure of office of five years in a State should not be disturbed except very rarely and that too, for extremely compelling reasons.

Save where the President is satisfied that in the interest of the security of the State, it is not expedient to do so, the Governor, whose tenure is proposed to be terminated before the expiry of the normal term of five years, should be informally apprised of the grounds of the proposed action and afforded a reasonable opportunity for showing cause against it.

It is desirable that the President should get the explanation, if any, submitted by the Governor against his proposed removal from office, examined by an advisory group consisting of the Vice-President of India and the Speaker of Lok Sabha or a retired Chief Justice of India. After receiving recommendations of this group, the President may pass such orders in the case as he may deem fit.

The Sarkaria Commission has observed that when, before expiry of the normal term of five years, a Governor resigns or is appointed as Governor of another State, or has his tenure terminated, the Union Government may lay a statement before Parliament explaining the circumstances leading to the ending of the tenure.

Matter of Convention

The Commission has recommended that as a matter of convention, the Governor should not, on demitting his office, be eligible for any other appointment or office of profit under the Union or a State Government, except for a second term as Governor or election as Vice-President or President of India. Such a convention should also require that after quitting or laying down his office, the Governor shall not return to active partisan politics.

The Commission has recommended that a Governor should, at the end of his tenure, irrespective of its duration be given reasonable post-retirement provisions for himself and for his surviving spouse.

Disturbed Areas

46001309 Calcutta *THE STATESMAN* in English
5 Feb 88 p 7

[Article: "States Must be Consulted Before Declaring an Area Disturbed"]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 4.—The Sarkaria Commission has recommended that the Centre should consult and seek the cooperation of the State Government before declaring a particular area within that State "disturbed", reports PTI.

In its report, the commission has observed that the armed forces and the State civil authorities and the manner of their functioning as prescribed in the relevant central rules and procedures, needed no change.

"However, before the Union Government deploys its armed and other forces in a State in aid of the civil power otherwise than on a request from the State Government, or declares an area within a State as disturbed, it is desirable that the State Government should be consulted wherever feasible and its cooperation sought even though prior consultation with the State Government is not obligatory."

The commission said it was essential that the deployment of the central armed forces and the State armed police battalions be planned in advance. The commission recommended that the Centre may also get an expert study conducted for evolving such a system of planning.

The commission suggested that a group of neighbouring States may, by consensus, have a standing arrangement for use of each other's armed police when required. The Centre may devise, by consensus, regional groupings keeping in view the contiguity and logistics and encourage States to participate fully in this venture.

The commission has suggested that the Finance Commission Cell, proposed to be located in the Planning Commission, should continuously monitor the "behaviour" of finances of the States.

Finance

In its recommendation, the commission noted that the cell should annually estimate the deviations from the norms evolved by the Finance Commission. The Planning Commission would then be able to bring before the National Economic and Development Council, annual reviews indicating, among other things, the deviations from the forecasts of the Finance Commission and reasons for the same.

The cell should, in cooperation with the States, organize comprehensive studies on trends in growth of public expenditure in States in the light of the findings of the previous Finance Commission and these studies should be available for use by the next Finance Commission.

The commission also suggested the strengthening of the cell. There would be much closer coordination between the Planning Commission and the Finance Commission if the cell was to work under the general supervision of the member in charge of the financial resources in the Planning Commission, it suggested.

Such an arrangement would also make available to the Planning Commission data and analysis on various parameters relevant for resource discussion for the plan and reviewing the finance of the Centre and the States.

appropriate amendment, that, notwithstanding anything in Clause (2) of Article 74 of the Constitution, the material facts and grounds on which Article 356(1) is invoked should be made an integral part of the proclamation issued under the article.

Foodgrains Management

46001309 New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Feb 88 p 5

[Article: "Sarkaria Panel for Long-Term Policy on Foodgrains Management"]

[Text] The Sarkaria Commission has underlined the need for a long-term policy on each major aspect of foodgrains management and civil supplies operations, report agencies.

For this purpose, the Commission in its report on Centre-State relations, has recommended widening the scope of the existing advisory council of the public distribution system, and renaming it as the advisory council on foodgrains management and public distribution.

For examining the major problems of food management and public distribution of essential commodities, the Commission is of the view that the proposed council could set up special task forces, in consultation with State Governments, including their official agencies.

Among other things, the advisory council should commission studies on such issues as reducing transportation and distribution costs and subsidising transportation costs for hilly and farflung areas, as well as forecasting market trends for the public distribution system.

The Commission has noted that State Governments face problems in the matter of construction and hiring of warehouses and godowns for storage of foodgrains. The proposed council may constitute a committee to examine these problems.

The report says there should be an indepth review of the working of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory Parliamentary acts in the field of food and civil supplies. A high-level committee should be set up for this purpose.

Apart from simplifying the laws and the orders made thereunder, the review should aim at identifying the areas where a State Government could be given greater freedom of action, so that it would not have to seek the prior approval of the Union Government in every minor case.

Apart from simplifying the orders, detecting obsolete ones and providing for greater delegation of powers and functions to State Governments and their authorities, the review should enable the Union Government to bring out a single self-contained and up-to-date order on each essential commodity or a group of them.

The review may be undertaken immediately and thereafter repeated every five years.

Special schemes which have been undertaken or are proposed to be undertaken by State Governments to make certain essential commodities available to the weaker sections of the society at prices lower than for others should conform to the national policies laid down by the Union Government for alleviation of poverty and the welfare development of these sections.

There should be an understanding between the Union and the State Governments with regard to the specific schemes and the special allocations of foodgrains to be made available to States.

In the field of agriculture, the Commission has made some recommendations regarding Centrally-sponsored schemes.

The reports says only those schemes which have inter-State, regional or national significance should be included as centrally-sponsored ones.

The Centrally-sponsored schemes should be formulated in consultation with States to ensure that they get included not because of the financial tag attached to them, but due to common appreciation by both the Union and States that these areas of high priority within the framework of the national plan.

On issues like the fixing of minimum prices of foodgrains and other items, the Commission feels that questions such as uniformity should be left for consideration by an expert body like the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC). Any problem regarding national policy on the fixing of prices could appropriately be considered thereafter by the national economic and development council, if necessary.

The report says States should be actively involved in the planning of fertiliser distribution.

Referring to cooperative credit, it notes that various committees have drawn attention to the fact that politicisation, malfunctioning of elected bodies and lack of professional competence in management are paralysing the cooperative credit system in some States.

Guidelines To Form Govt

On choosing a new Chief Minister, the commission has recommended that a Governor should call upon the party or combination of parties which commands widest support in the Legislative Assembly.

The Commission cautions: "The governors' task is to see that a government is formed and not to try to form a government which will pursue policies which he approved".

In its report the Commission says that if there is a single party having an absolute majority in the Assembly, the leader of the party should automatically be asked to become the chief minister.

But if there is no such party, the governor should select a chief minister from among the alliance formed before the elections, the largest single party staking a claim with support of others, post electoral coalition and a post electoral alliance with some joining government and others supporting it from outside.

The Governor should select a leader who in his judgement is most likely to command a majority in the Assembly, the Commission opines.

"A chief minister, unless he is the leader of a party which has absolute majority in the Assembly, should seek a vote of confidence in the Assembly within 30 days of taking over. This practice should be religiously adhered to with the sanctity of a rule of law".

The Governor should not risk determining the issue of majority support on his own, outside the Assembly.

"The prudent course for him would be to cause the rival claims to be tested on the floor of the House," the Commission observes.

The Commission observes that the Governor cannot dismiss his council of ministers so long as they continue to command a majority in the Legislative Assembly. Conversely, he is bound to dismiss them if they lose their majority.

When the Legislative Assembly is in session, the question of majority should be tested on the floor of the House, it observes.

If during the period the Assembly is prorogued the Governor receives reliable evidence that the council of ministers has lost majority, he should not as a matter of constitutional propriety dismiss the council unless that Assembly has expressed its want of confidence on the floor of the House.

"He should advise the chief minister to summon the Assembly as early as possible so that the majority can be tested, the Commission observes.

Natural calamities: The Commission has recommended that the Centre should provide immediate relief to States in the event of natural calamities.

The Commission, in its report, has suggested that in a calamitous situation, States should have a reasonable direction to make inter-district or inter-sectoral adjustments, to allay the apprehension that the expenditure pattern adopted under the stress of urgency may not find

approval. Norms regarding items of immediate expenditure like foodgrains, clothing and rebuilding of shelters may be evolved by the Union and communicated to the States.

The Sarkaria Commission is of the view that Central relief to States should extend beyond the financial year. The assistance required till the next June or July should be decided in the beginning itself so that relief works can be properly planned and executed.

Review of Conservation Cases

46001309 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English
7 Feb 88 p 8

[Article: "Examine 'Closed' Cases: Sarkaria"]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 6 (PTI). The Sarkaria commission has called for a review of the large number of cases "closed" under the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980, to identify the reasons for doing so.

In its report running into two volumes, the commissions has said that a senior officer of the ministry of environment, forests and wildlife should examine all such cases which had been disposed of as "closed", identify the reasons and inform the states.

"Cases which are required to be followed by the states should be reopened and decided on their merits after discussion with representatives of the concerned governments," the commission has recommended.

The commission observed that the conservation and improvement of forest resources was of utmost importance to the nation. Both the Centre and the states should undertake concerted action in this direction, it said.

"At the same time it is necessary to ensure that development efforts are not hampered", the commission has cautioned.

The commission further noted that a biannual review of pending cases should be carried out in consultation with the concerned state governments.

"This occasion should also be utilised for reviewing the sanctions by virtue of powers recommended by us, to be delegated to them," the commission observes.

The commission recommends that in the case of large projects involving significant submersion of reserved forests or their diversion to non-forest uses, clearance under the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980, should be given, as far as possible, simultaneously with the clearance of the project by the Central government.

The Central agencies may be associated right from the outset with the formulation of the project so that adequate measures not only to compensate for the loss of reserved forests, but also to improve forest resources can be built into them, ab initio, the commission observes.

Immediate Relief: the Sarkaria commission has also recommended that the Centre should provide immediate relief to states in the event of natural calamities.

The commission, in its report, has suggested that in a calamitous situation, states should have a reasonable direction to make inter-district or inter-sectoral adjustments, to allay the apprehension that the expenditure pattern adopted under the stress of urgency may not find approval. Norms regarding items of immediate expenditure like foodgrains, clothing and rebuilding of shelters may be evolved by the Union and communicated to the states.

The commission is of the view that Central relief to states should extend beyond the financial year. The assistance required till next June or July should be decided in the beginning itself, so that relief works can be properly planned and executed.

The commission has recommended that the distinction made by the seventh and eighth finance commission in providing a more favourable flow of Central assistance for floods and cyclones vis-a-vis the drought situation may continue.

The Central team to assess the damage caused by the natural calamities should invariably be headed by the advisor in-charge of that state in the planning commission, as was the practice in the past, it said.

The Sarkaria commission has observed that there appears to be a tendency to bring in non-productive schemes and programmes under the capital head in order to expand the plan size. In future plans, for reasons of financial propriety, this sector, though small, has to be weeded out of the capital budget and put under the revenue budget.

The commission has desired that a procedure which enables the states to expeditiously provide necessary succour to the affected people should be evolved in consensus with the states, along with suitable norms regarding the scale of relief.

Formulation of standard formats for the submission of memoranda by the states will greatly help the Union government in dealing with requests of various states urgently and on a uniform basis.

Use of Local Language

46001309 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English
7 Feb 88 p 8

[Article: "Use of Local Language for Official Work Urged"]

[Text] New Delhi, February 6 (UNI). The Sarkaria commission has recommended that the work of the Union and the state governments, which directly affects the local people must be carried out in the local language.

The commission, in its report, has observed that this is even more important in a welfare state.

"It is necessary that all forms, applications, letters, bills, notices, etc are made available in the local language as well as the official language."

This is of equal relevance to state governments which have sizable linguistic minorities concentrated in certain areas, the commission said.

The commission notes that effective steps should be taken to uniformly implement the "three language formula" in its true spirit for the unity and integrity of the country. The commission has also recommended that the code of conduct evolved to safeguard the minorities be strictly implemented.

It is a matter of concern that the post of the commissioner for linguistic minorities has been allowed to remain vacant for a long time, and situation needs to be rectified, the commission has observed.

As the politicisation of the language issue has often tended to threaten the unity and integrity of the country, there is a need for creating appropriate fora at various levels to defuse any potentially explosive situation and evolve a positive approach. The inter-governmental and zonal councils can play a useful role in this connection.

Article 351 states that in the process of developing Hindi, it is neither desirable nor necessary to replace commonly understood terms by difficult sanskritised words, the commission says. The growth of the official language can best be fostered by following the command of article 351 in letter and spirit.

The commission has observed that government service is an important employment avenue for the educated in India. Proficiency in a particular language need not be insisted upon at the time of recruitment to ensure that language is not used as a hinderance in recruitment or subsequent career in the service.

The commission says there is a strong case for renaming the committee of parliament of official language.

Planning Commission Organization

46001309 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English
8 Feb 88 p 15

[Article: "Autonomy Not Favoured for Plan Panel"]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 7 (UNI). The Sarkaria commission does not favour making the planning commission an autonomous body.

The working of such an autonomous organisation will be "stymied by legalism, rigidities and technicalities which are inherent in inflexible statutes," the commission says in its report on Centre-state relations.

The remedy, therefore, lies in reforming the institution and its working providing for full and effective consultation with the states at all stages feel that their role is not supplicant but in the nature of equal participants.

The commission is of the view that if healthy conventions are established in regard to consultations with the planning commission and due weightage is given to its recommendations, then all apprehensions in regard to domination of the planning commission will disappear.

The planning commission must be consulted in taking all major investment decisions.

The deputy chairman of the planning commission should be an eminent expert who can command the respect of the Union as well as the state governments by his objectivity and stature and should not be seen as a political appointee.

To remove misgivings about the planning commission's capacity to act objectively, experts with established reputation for professional integrity and calibre should be appointed to its panel for specified terms.

The commission is of the view that it is of utmost importance to look into detail the complement of non-plan finances of the states by the resource working group of the planning commission. Detailed analysis of any aberrations and significant deviation from the norms of finance commission should be made.

The planning commission should pay special attention to the efficacy of the monitoring systems in the government by advising on techniques and formats. At the same time, it may continue monitoring of specific programmes and keep itself abreast with the progress in the core and priority sectors.

Besides the general reviews contained in the annual plan and the mid-term appraisals, a comprehensive quinquennial review should be brought out by the planning commission for finalising the five-year plan.

In order to build expertise in the planning commission, the officers in senior posts should not only have the desired specialisation and competence but should also serve in the organisation for sufficiently long periods. Serious attention to this aspect will have to be given by the planning commission itself.

The advisers (state plan) must visit the states more frequently as they have a key role to play in bringing about a close relationship between the states and the planning commission.

The national development council (NDC) should be made to function more effectively and emerge as the highest inter-governmental body at the political level for giving a direction and thrust to planned development of the country.

For this purpose, the commission has desired that the NDC be re-named and reconstituted as the national economic and developmental council (NEDC).

Regular elections to municipal and panchayat bodies in all the states uniformly should be held by the Union government in consultation with the NEDC and for this purpose a constitutional amendment should be made, the commission also recommends.

Survey of TN Project Okayed

Hyderabad, February 7 (PTI): The planning commission has cleared a Rs 12.85 lakh project for using remote sensing methods to survey the Kundah hydroelectric catchment and Vaigai catchment areas in Tamil Nadu, according to three engineers from the Tamil Nadu agricultural engineering department.

Mr K. Krishnamoorthy, Mr S. Mohammed Ghouse and Mr S. Savadamuthu told the national workshop on agricultural drought, at the national remote sensing agency (NRSA) here today, that the department had prepared a complete status report of the two projects in the Western Ghats using satellite imagery and aerial photographs.

Recommendations Interpreted

46001309 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English
3 Feb 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Broad Indorsement"]

[Text] Judging by reports that have appeared in the press, on the basis of an official summary, the Sarkaria commission has proposed a streamlining of the present arrangements to make for smoother functioning through closer consultation between the Centre and the states. It has suggested that, when President's rule is imposed on a state, the reasons for it should be incorporated in the proclamation and that the assembly should not be dissolved without Parliament's approval. This proposal has to be seen in the context of the commission's disapproval

of the mass imposition of President's rule in 1977 by the Janata and in 1980 by the Congress. Such a restraint on the Centre's powers under Article 356, which the commission concedes are vital, need not create a serious problem since it can be assumed that the Union government commands a majority in Parliament and is, therefore, in a position to push through its dissolution proposal. But for the same reason it does not amount to much of a safeguard against the abuse of its powers by the Centre. The commission also wants consultation with chief ministers on the appointment of governors to be written into the Constitution. This too is a welcome recommendation. Again, while rejecting suggestions for transferring various subjects to the state or concurrent list, the commission would like—and rightly—the Centre to consult the states before passing legislation on concurrent subjects. It does not want any restriction on the Centre's power to decide whether and when to deploy armed forces in a state. Again, however, it would prefer the Centre to consult the state government before doing so. It favours what it calls "co-operative federalism", entailing the generous use of Article 258 which gives the Centre the power to confer authority on the states in certain cases. While confirming the finance commission's crucial role in distributing revenue between the Centre and the states, it wants that body's terms of reference to be drawn up after informal consultations with the states.

On the whole, the Sarkaria commission has endorsed both the existing systemic structures and the manner in which they have been functioning. What it has clearly rejected is any drastic overhauling that would gravely weaken the Centre. A strong Centre, it affirms, is needed to maintain the country's unity and integrity and to help it undergo the strains of rapid change in a heterogeneous society. There can be no quarrel with the thrust of the commission's proposals. While chief ministers of states ruled by parties other than the Congress may feel it has not come up to their expectations, they should stop to consider whether some of these expectations are not unrealistic. The numerous crises the system has faced and faces have subjected it to enormous pressures which it has largely withstood. It is nobody's case that it is perfect but what needs to be done, as the commission has set out to do, is to make them less imperfect, while ensuring that centrifugal tendencies, often of an extremely violent nature, can be firmly held in check. In any case, in the final analysis, the critical issue in a federal set-up like ours is the degree of trust or lack of it between The Centre and individual states. And in all conscience, it cannot be said either that the Centre has always acted in a manner that can inspire confidence in its bona fides or that grievances of non-Congress states have always been legitimate.

Writer Tells Expectations From CPI-CPC Meeting

46001291 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English
7 Feb 88 p 9

[Article by Anand K. Sahay]

[Text] New Delhi, February 6—When representatives of the CPI and the Communist Party of China meet at the highest level in Beijing next month after a break of a quarter century, Mr C. Rajeswara Rao, CPI general secretary, is expected to impress on his hosts the need for a summit-level dialogue between the governments of India and China.

CPI sources today underlined the need for such a discussion in the interests of peace in the region.

When Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, CPM general secretary, visited China last year, he too had noted the importance of a political approach in sorting out Sino-Indian relations. Since his visit, the thread has been picked up by both sides even at the official level.

Mr Rao is scheduled to lead a five-member delegation to China for two weeks from March 28. The Chinese are understood to be especially satisfied that the CPI team is being led by the party general secretary himself.

The initial expectation was that the CPI would send as head of delegation a member of the party secretariat. The decision to upgrade the level of the team was taken at the meeting of the party's central executive last month.

In principle India has no objection to the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, meeting the Chinese premier, but no dates have yet been fixed. A summit would naturally have to be preceded by sufficient groundwork on both sides. In this connection, the Chinese are understood to be desirous of ministerial-level visits preceding a possible summit.

In the past few months, the defence minister, Mr K.C. Pant, and the finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, have been to Beijing. But in both cases the stop-over in the Chinese capital was a transit halt, not an official visit. China, on the other hand, has sent its ministers to India.

Besides Sino-Indian ties, Mr Rao is also expected to discuss the Afghanistan and the Kampuchean questions during his visit in addition to party-to-party relation.

Recent times have seen a sea change in norms governing the relationship between the Communist parties of the world, and long gone are the days of the practical concept of a single centre of world communism, thought by many once to be Moscow, subsequently to be rivalled by claims by Beijing under Mao. The change was given a fillip by

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, not to speak of the changes in the international balance of forces. The new norms are expected to come up for discussion between the CPI and the CPC.

CPI sources said there continue to be important disagreements between the CPI and the CPC, but it is being felt that differences of the past are "best left to the historians."

The relationship between the CPI and the CPC had never been severed, but put into a deep freeze after the Chinese attack of 1962.

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Reportage on Developments in Defense Ordnance

Army Chief of Staff's Interview

46001310 Calcutta *THE STATESMAN in English*
8 Feb 88 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 7—The country will soon have infrastructural facilities for overhauling the T-72 tanks and BMP-1 Infantry carrying vehicles (IVC), reports UNI.

This was disclosed by the Chief of Army Staff, General K. Sundarji, in an interview to the bi-annual Indian Defence Review. In his interview with the journal's editor, the Army Chief explained various aspects of the ongoing modernization programme in India. He himself is the man behind this programme.

The modernization covered both men and machines and aimed at achieving greater mobility and better firepower command, control and communication, including surveillance and night-fighting capability.

He said, many of the recent efforts at modernization were a part of the first defence perspective plan, adopted in 1987.

Gen. Sundarji said the T-72 and ICVs were expected to be functional by the time the first of the systems were due for overhaul.

Under the new planning parameters adopted, the life of tanks was to be 30 years, incorporating planned base repairs roughly after five years or 4,000 km, followed after another five years by capital repairs, entailing almost complete refurbishing.

He said the Army required a minimum of three to four types of tanks. Referring to the modernization plans for the Artillery, the Army Chief said the licensed-product version of the 155-MM guns would be the primary medium guns of the Indian Army. For the medium Self Propelled (SP) guns, plans were underway to mount the 155-MM guns on the Vijayanta chassis.

Gen. Sundarji further said the entire generation of 75/24 Howitzers and 25 Pounder guns was in the process of being replaced by the indigenously made 105-MM LFG Mark One, and the LFG Mark Two. The 130-MM guns, acquired from the USSR, he said, would continue in service till the early part of next century.

The Army Chief expressed his concern at the state of air defence weapon system, but said efforts were being made at improvement. He was confident that an indigenous version of air defence missiles would be available by the early 90s, while indigenous anti-aircraft guns would start rolling out by the mid-90s.

The Army Aviation Wing, he said, would be further strengthened by the introduction of more than one single utility besides Air Observation Post (AOP) helicopters.

About the proposed reorganization at the Army headquarters, Gen. Sundarji said this was an ongoing process and many changes had already been made while some more were on the anvil. Many refinements have also been introduced to make the organization more dynamic, responsible and result-oriented.

An Army training command is proposed to be set up in Madhya Pradesh. The Army Chief said it would concentrate on coordinating training in the Army and on creation of the required training capability.

With regard to the reorganization of formations, the Army Chief said the experiments carried out in exercise "brass tacks" on the employment of the rapid (reorganized Army plains Infantry division) both in defensive and offensive roles were found to be very satisfactory. The offensive rapid which would form part of offensive corps would have sufficient mobility, punch and staying power for tasks such as the initial securing of ground overrun by friendly armour, investment and capture-/neutralization of nodes, opening of axes, flank protection, pivots of manoeuvre, as also for the capture of bridgeheads across obstacle systems.

Gen. Sundarji said his emphasis had been on mechanized warfare in the plains without neglecting India's mountain divisions. Exercise checker board and the experience gained over the years had shown that our weakness lay in the lack of mobility, firepower and defensibility.

He said a new-look mountain division with greater mobility, firepower and staying power would emerge shortly. He said the mobility in mountains would only be achieved through adequate helicopter support.

Mechanized Infantry Regiment

46001310 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA in English*
8 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Ahmednagar (Maharashtra), Feb. 7—The state of the art Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs)—BMPs—which are with the Indian Army, are far superior to the similar range of M-113 series of combat vehicles developed by the US which Pakistan now has.

Even the American experts have conceded the superiority of the BMP (Boyowaya Machina Producta), which is having a respiration and ventilation system providing protection to men inside while traversing areas of biological or nuclear contamination.

As soon as the BMP vehicle detects nuclear contamination its engine stops and the man inside wearing radiation protective dresses could move, a spokesman at the Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre (MIRC) here told a group of visiting reporters last week.

The BMP 1 and 2, which are with the mechanised infantry regiment of the Indian Army, are fitted with first and second generation anti-tank guided missiles "Konkross" and "Malutka", hitting the target at a speed of 180 meters and 120 meters per second respectively, with a range of more than 3 kms. Automatic 30 mm cannon gives the BMP the capacity to destroy targets like ICVs, trucks and helicopters. Besides the commander gunner and missile pilot, the vehicle carries eight infantry men.

The mechanised infantry regiment, the youngest one in the Indian Army, will receive colours from the President, Mr R. Venkataraman at the MIRC's parade ground, the second largest in India, on February 24.

Preparations are on in full swing at the MIRC here for the historic occasion, which will find its place in the Guinness Book of World Records, as for the first time in the defence history 24 colours will be presented at a time—one each to 23 active battalions and one to regimental centre—and 10 old colours will troop out.

Along with the colour presentation ceremony, the mechanised infantry will also have its first regimental reunion and fifth biennial conference, Col M.S. Oberoi, the commandant of the MIRC, told reporters.

Tracing the history of the mechanised infantry and ICVs, a spokesman said, the need for modernisation and upgradation of defence technology was felt after the 1962 war and became more imperative after the 1971 war. The chief of the army, Gen. K. Sunderji, took up the challenge and later "came up with his brainchild—the mechanised infantry concept."

The first tentative steps were taken in the late '60s by converging some of the finest infantry units into mechanised infantry by equipping them with armoured personnel carriers. But to fully realise the combat potential of this dynamic arm, the need was felt to provide its components with joint integrated training and a common battlefield philosophy. This requirement was fulfilled by forming the new regiment on March 20, 1979.

According to the spokesman, the concept of mechanised infantry was based on the need to provide infantry with mobility, protection and fire power to enable it to operate effectively in mobile operations with armours.

Men inside the BMPs, if required, fight mounted, keeping a vigil through their respective periscopes or pot-holes. When the need arises they can dismount quickly and fight on foot while the BMP provides support by fire.

Aircraft Carrier Being Designed

46001310 Calcutta *THE STATESMAN in English*
6 Feb 88 p 7

[Text] Panaji, Feb. 5—Vice-Admiral L. Ramdas, flag-officer commanding, Southern Naval Command, has said that an aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy was being indigenously designed at the Cochin Shipyard, the biggest in the country, reports PTI.

Speaking informally to reporters at Vasco yesterday, Vice-Admiral Ramdas stated that the proposed aircraft carrier of between 30 to 40 thousand tons, was expected to be ready by the end of this century.

The Vice-Admiral, who was on a short visit here, said the Indian Navy, from its humble beginning four decades ago, had now risen to be "a reasonably competent and credible force". However, it needed to grow, commensurate with present needs, he added.

The Vice-Admiral said the Navy would be successfully modernized by the 21st century, as it was expected to be allotted about 18 per cent of the defence budget at the turn of the century.

The naval bases at Karwad and Ezhimala would also be set up on schedule, he added.

Goa was the most important naval aviation base and was a training ground for all naval recruits, he said.

Regarding the expansion plan of the Goa Shipyard Ltd., he said the yard had been entrusted with the building of two mine sweepers which would involve highly complex technology and as such additional facilities would have to be set up.

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World Conference on Quark Research Opens in Bombay

46001304 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA in English*
9 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Bombay, February 8—Front-ranking physicists from 14 countries began their deliberations here today on the most elementary particle in nature, called "quark".

The delegates heard the claims of some European scientists that they had a peep into the past by mimicking the nascent particle in a universe just a microsecond old. The issue of identifying the elementary particle beyond any doubt and the likely misleading signals were discussed.

Prof M.G.K. Menon, scientific adviser to the Prime Minister, inaugurating the five-day international conference on physics and astrophysics of quark-gluon plasma at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research here, emphasised the need for Indian participation in this field at the European Nuclear Research Laboratory (CERN), Geneva, and in the United States. The Indian government was evolving a policy on the joint use of very large-scale particle accelerators, he added.

Prof B.V. Sreekantan, former director of TIFR and chairman of the conference, recalled the first international conference on elementary particles at TIFR, Bombay, in December 1950. To counter the common assumption that scientists "amuse themselves with such useless things as elementary particles," he quoted Prof P.M.S. Blackett's speech delivered at that time: "In a way, scientists amuse themselves doing things that they enjoy, but history has shown that the pursuit of pure science is an integral part of the pursuit of applied science and the two cannot be divorced."

Dr Bikas Sinha, convenor of the conference, guided by the "conventional wisdom", said that quarks and gluons were the fundamental building blocks of all creation. The state of the matter called quark-gluon plasma was believed to be the state of the universe just microseconds after its creation.

Theoretical work in this field had been carried out in India about eight years ago. With a distinguished tradition in experimental physics, India should now break new ground in the exciting field of heavy ion collision, Dr Sinha said.

In the technical session, Dr E.V. Shuryak, a scientist from the U.S.S.R., who first pointed out the possibility of quark-gluon plasma seven years ago, said neither confinement of quarks or the deconfinement of quarks closely bound by gluons was fully understood. Touching on the astrophysical and cosmological implication of quarks, he said quarks in the early universe could have populated dark matter. Nearly 80 per cent of matter in the universe is undetectable and this portion is called dark matter.

Similarly, a star called Cygnus X-3, which is emitting signals with a perfect periodicity, could be a source of quarks, Dr Shuryak said. Cygnus X-3 is described as the most powerful natural-energy accelerator.

Dr H. Gutbrod from CERN and Dr A. Romana of France announced the first set of results of experiments where sulphur nuclei were bombarded on fixed targets of

lead, uranium and copper with an energy of six trillion electron volts. During such high-energy collisions quark-gluon plasma is believed to be produced.

Whether the signals emitted during such collisions really represent the quark-gluon plasma is being debated. Dr S. Raha of Saha Institute, Calcutta, for example, cautioned that those signals could be created by other nuclear collisions too. Hence, attempts should be made to eliminate all other misleading signals, he added.

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IRAN

Envoy to UN Reports Iraqi Chemical Weapons Use

*LD221220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 Mar 88*

[Text] During two separate meetings last night, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations submitted two special messages from our country's foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to the UN secretary general and to the president of the Security Council about the recent crimes of the Iraqi regime in dropping chemical bombs. In addition to these two meetings, and in view of the enormity of the dreadful crimes committed by the Iraqi regime in its use of chemical weapons against thousands of inhabitants of the city of Halabja, the Iranian ambassador called upon all international forums and organizations to begin the task of sending relief as a global measure to save the wounded and victims of this crime.

During a press conference attended by dozens of international correspondents, Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, referred to the history of the deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, and particularly the most recent instance in the liberated city of Halabja, which has continued since 17 March, and criticized those countries which have blocked any UN resolution against these crimes. He said that such countries are directly responsible for this inhuman crime of the Iraqi regime.

Referring to the different types of bombs and their chemical composition, which are mainly nerve gas, mustard gas, and cyanide, he announced some statistics on the number of dead and wounded. He said: Most of the martyrs and wounded are Iraqis including women, children, and old people. He added: the refusal of the United Nations and the Security Council to condemn the Iraqi regime's use of such weapons, despite the undeniable evidence prepared by the UN fact-finding missions, has encouraged the Baghdad regime to increase the use of these weapons, particularly against the people of Iraq, and has encouraged the blatant violation of the 1925 Geneva Convention.

The Iranian ambassador went on: The action of the Iraqi regime has also seriously undermined international efforts to secure a new convention banning the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and has undermined the holding of a special session of the international conference on disarmament. Afterwards, he referred to Iran's repeated reports to the secretary general and to the Security Council, since 17th March, and criticized the United Nations and [word indistinct] for not making a proper response. He added: Does any one dare now to talk of the Iraqi desire for peace? Can this regime, which subjects its own people to so much cruelty and tramples on the international conventions so openly, be committed to bilateral treaties?

In conclusion, the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations called upon this organization, upon the Security Council and upon the secretary general to condemn the Iraqi regime outright. They should seek every possible means to halt the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons, which is still continuing, and to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the region to prepare a report on the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime. He also asked the UN secretary general to submit all evidence on the Iraqi use of chemical weapons, as a document, to the third special conference on disarmament, and put the matter on the agenda of the next UN general assembly.

Polish Minister Equates Iraqi Attacks, Nazi War Crimes

LD201745 Tehran IRNA in English
1715 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA—POLISH Minister of Health and Social Welfare Janusz Komender compared Saddam's (Husayn) air and missile attacks on Iranian residential areas to Nazi war crimes during World War II, and said that the world should not remain silent towards these atrocities.

In a meeting in Warsaw with Iranian ambassador abdol Fazl Rahnema-Hazavei who handed him a message from Iranian Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi, Komender recalled that he had personally witnessed Nazi crimes in attacking hospitals and killing women and children.

The Polish minister deploring the atrocities of the Iraqi Ba'athist regime said that he will convey Marandi's message to Polish Foreign minister Zbigniew Messner.

Komender said that Poland will not be indifferent to such acts and will soon inform Iranian officials of Poland's stance.

The two officials also discussed bilateral ties and the possibility of medical cooperation between the two countries. The Polish minister further expressed his keenness to expand Tehran-Warsaw relations.

Reporters Visit Kurds Wounded in Iraqi Chemical Attacks

LD212151 Tehran IRNA in English
2055 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—A group of foreign reporters and cameramen visited a hospital in Tehran where several Iraqi Kurds wounded in the Ba'athist regime's brutal chemical attacks on the Iranian liberated northeastern Iraqi town of Halabja, are hospitalized.

The mediamen, from Britain, U.S., Turkey, Austria, France and Sweden had earlier visited the areas liberated by Iranian combatants in the northeastern Iraqi province of Sulaymaniyah and filed reports and made films on the achievements of the Val-Fajr-10 operations.

A 14-year chemically-wounded Iraqi Kurdish girl told the foreign reporters that she and her mother were affected by the toxic gases used by the criminal Iraqi regime during its dastardly attacks on their hometown (Halabja). "We have not heard from other members of our family", she added sadly.

She continued that Halabja residents were chemically-bombarded by the Baghdad regime because of their commitment to Islam.

Another victim, who along with his four children is receiving treatment at the hospital told the visitors that her wife [as received] was martyred and his two other children are missing as a result of the Iraqi chemical attacks on Halabja.

A 19 year old woman who is unaware of the fate of her husband and her 14 month-old child, said that the town was first rocketed by Iraqi warplanes and then chemically bombed while people were taking to the streets in order to flee the town.

The Iraqi warplanes brutally dropped chemical bombs even on people wandering in the countryside around the town, she said.

Chemical Bombing Victims Treated

LD201251 Tehran IRNA in English
1145 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA—The transfer behind the war zone of the victims of the Baghdad regime's chemical attacks on the northeastern Iraqi towns and villages liberated in the victorious Iranian "Val-Fajr-10" operations has started.

Iran's Muslim forces have launched extensive efforts to transfer all chemically-wounded Iraqi Kurds behind the war fronts.

The victims of Iraqi chemical attacks are carried to a field hospital by cars and helicopters for receiving first aid and then to hospitals in the western Iranian cities for further treatment.

Some medical centers have been set up in Bakhtaran and Kordestan Provinces in western and northwestern Iran to treat people with minor chemical injuries.

Some 350 chemically-wounded Iraqi Kurds have so far been transferred and hospitalized in Tehran.

3 Types of Toxic Gases Used *LD201215 Tehran IRNA in English* *1149 GMT 20 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA—THE Baghdad regime has used three types of toxic gases in its savage chemical attacks on the towns and villages liberated in northeastern Iraq during the victorious Val Fajr-10 operations.

The Baghdad Regime is reported to have used toxic cyanide, mustard and nerve gases in over 20 chemical bombardments of the liberated areas in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province.

Besides their chemical attacks, Iraqi warplanes have also dropped cluster bombs on the liberated towns and villages especially Halabjah.

Over 70 percent of the victims of the Iraqi chemical attacks are women and children.

Medical Help for Victims Sought *BK201557 Delhi Domestic Service in English* *1530 GMT 20 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran has sought the help of Indian doctors for treating victims of the chemical weapons. The Iranian consul general, Mr (Hafez Syed Fateh Mian), told newsmen in Hyderabad today that hundreds of Iranian civilians have been killed and wounded in the border towns in the Iraqi use of chemical weapons.

SRI LANKA

Hameed Discusses VOA Transmissions *BK190914 Colombo SUN in English 9 Mar 88 p 2*

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister A.C.S. Hameed yesterday told Parliament that there will be no change in the original number or capacity of the transmitters to be installed at the Voice of America Broadcasting Station.

Replying to an adjournment question raised by MP for Attanagalla Lakshman Jayakody whether the power of the transmitters for the VOA are going to be reduced from what was intended originally, Mr. Hameed said that there is no such move. He said that the current agreement provides for the installation of two transmitters one with 250 kilowatts and the other 500 kilowatts.

He added that 1800 acres will be leased out to VOA at Anamaduwa in the Puttalam district and VOA will annually pay the Sri Lankan government \$80,000 (approximately rs. 2.8 million) as lease.

He added that the VOA Broadcasting station will be used solely for the purpose of public broadcasting and not for any military or intelligence purposes. "Some people have expressed fear about the setting up of this broadcasting station but I have gone into the entire thing myself and can assure it will only be used for public broadcasting," he said.

Equipment would be monitored continuously to see that it is used exactly for the purposes for which the agreement was signed," he said.

Answering another question on the Indian Ocean Peace Zone matter, Mr. Hameed said that the Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for this year, one of which may be held in Sri Lanka.

Earlier, the Attanagalla MP asked whether an agreement has been signed with Radio Japan to put up a broadcasting station here.

"I would like a detailed explanation of this at a later date" he said.

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